



HERITAGE

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Missional Community Discussion Week of March 5th

Opening thought:

The Definition of Faith we will use for this series is: "Faith is trusting God completely, no matter what." The good news is that faith is not something we have to work up from within. Faith is a gift from God. Ephesians 2:8 says that it is by grace we have been saved through faith, and this is not from ourselves, but is the gift of God. Faith, no less than grace is God's gift to us.

Questions to discuss:

1. Read Hebrews 11:8-19
2. What stands out to you in this passage? What challenges you?
3. Talk about a time when your faith allowed you to be obedient to God.
4. Have you ever needed your faith to be courageous? Explain.
5. When has your faith needed to be completely dependent on God?
6. Is it hard to have faith that is persistent? Have you ever had to wait a very long time for God to come through on a promise? Have you ever given up on your faith and let doubt win?
7. True faith is sacrificial. What have you had to sacrifice because of your faith? Is there anything you have not been willing to sacrifice?

Looking ahead:

Our faith should be responsive, courageous, dependent, persistent and sacrificial. If your faith is lacking in any of these aspects, ask God to help your unbelief.

Challenge:

Faith is trusting God completely, no matter what. Commit to studying through Hebrews 11 with us this month, and let's see God grow us into a church of great faith!

Read through the New Testament in 2017 - This week's reading - Luke 2-6



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March 5, 2017

SERMON SERIES: Faith For Today

Abraham: The Father of our Faith

_____ is trusting God _____, no matter what.

God counted Abraham's faith as _____.

[8] For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (ESV) Ephesians 2:8

[8] By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.

[9] By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. [10] For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. [11] By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. [12] Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

[13] These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. [14] For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. [15] If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. [16] But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

[17] By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, [18] of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." [19] He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. (ESV) Hebrews 11:8-19

Abraham was just an _____ man.

Today we will talk about five aspects of faith.

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1. Faith is _____
Hebrews 11:8

Abraham _____ and went.

2. Faith is _____
Genesis 12:1-7

The promise of land is not what _____ Abraham.

3. Faith is _____
Hebrews 11:11-12

4. Faith is _____
Hebrews 11:13-16

God's people are looking for a _____ country.

5. Faith is _____
Hebrews 11:17-19

We don't know how everything will turn out but we know God promises to _____ us with all good things.

[9] When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. [10] Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. [11] But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." [12] He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." [13] And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. [14] So Abraham called the name of that place, "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided." (ESV) Genesis 22:9-14

Abraham had faith, & God provided a substitute sacrifice in place of Isaac.

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