

# FAMILY OF FAITH

The top half of the page features a background image of a starry night sky. In the lower center of this image, the silhouettes of a man and a woman are visible, looking towards the horizon. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a warm orange and red glow near the horizon, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

**Hebrews 11:8-20 • July 2020**

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## **Overview**

What a season of upheaval and uncertainty we are faced with in our world. Covid-19 has shaken up so much and many of us are wondering what “normal” will look like from now on. People are concerned about the economy and jobs, public health, and loved ones overseas. All this on top of all that we were already concerned about.

And yet the vision and mission of the church do not change. We all have to play our part in helping as many people as possible to become total followers of Jesus. In the midst of so much uncertainty, it’s good to be reminded that we were always called to live by faith.

So using the story of Abraham and Sarah, the original family of faith, let’s have conversations together about how we too, as the church, can be a family of faith.

## **Outline**

1. Hebrews 11:8-10
2. Hebrews 11:11-16
3. Hebrews 11:17-20

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Week 1 • 5 July 2020 • Hebrews 11:8-10

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## LOOK FORWARD

1. Have a look at the definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1. What is inherently challenging about this? What helps?
2. Abraham went to Canaan as a stranger; where he looked and felt like he didn't fit in. It sounds like a good description of following Jesus!
  - a. Have a look at Romans 12 in The Message - "Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking."
  - b. In what ways does your faith in Jesus make a difference to the way you see what's going on in our world and what it might mean for you?
3. Abraham could live by faith because he was "looking forward to the city."
  - a. What is this city according to Heb 12:22 & Rev 21:1-4?
  - b. As you think about the decisions you are making right now, how might you decide differently with eternity in mind?

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Week 2 • 12 July 2020 • Hebrews 11:11-16

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## STAND FIRM

1. If Abraham's faith was grounded in looking forward, Sarah's faith was in the character of God.
  - a. What is associated with the faithfulness of God in these verses? (1 Thes 5:23-24; 2 Thes 3:3; 1 John 1:9)
  - b. How does this compare with what you hope God will do in your life?
  
2. Sarah could trust God even when the reality of her own body told her it was impossible!
  - a. What does Jesus teach on this in Mark 9:21-24?
  - b. What impossible situation are you seeking God about right now? Why not pray together about it.
  
3. Becoming more like Jesus means we'll be growing in faithfulness. How are you doing with the following questions? Ask God for the grace to grow here.
  - a. Can you be relied upon?
  - b. Do you keep your promises?
  - c. Do you complete tasks that have been asked of you?
  - d. Do you tell the truth even when it's difficult?

# FAMILY OF FAITH

Week 3 • 19 July 2020 • Hebrews 11:17-19

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## TRUSTING GOD WITH EVERYTHING

1. Have a look at the narrative of Genesis 22:1-14 and imagine being Abraham for a moment. Why not share together about what stands out, what is challenging or what doesn't make sense.
2. Are there areas of life or situations where you struggle to trust God. Is there anything you're afraid God might ask you to do?
  - a. Why not share about that together and pray about it.
  - b. Are there things in Abraham's story that are an encouragement here?
3. V17 tells us that God was testing Abraham's faith. Has there been a time in your life where you felt your faith was being tested?
  - a. What was it like?
  - b. What did you learn?
  - c. What good things come out of faith being tested?
4. This episode is a reminder of something so profound - God can be trusted even with death. See 1 Cor 15:17-20, John 3:16 and Daniel 3:16-18.
  - a. How does this affect what is important in life for you?
  - b. How does it make the message of Jesus distinctive in our world?