

REFLECTING ON THE YEAR

We have come to the end of our study in Hebrews 11 about the great witnesses of faith. Week after week we've seen these heroes of old in times of great victory and discouraging defeat; times of incredible strength and humiliating weakness; times of moral uprightness and moral lapse; times of God-dependence and self-reliance. We've seen their faith be strong, steady and unwavering and we've seen their faith crumble and fail. How like us they are! We've watched God deal with His people with wonderful love, patience and mercy as He worked through them to bring about His plans.

Our purpose this last week will be to reflect back on the life-changing principles God has taught us through these true life studies. You'll want to gather up the lessons you've done and look back at the journey God has taken you on during this past year. Before you begin, PRAY that the Holy Spirit will open your heart to receive the treasures that God has for you in His Word.

1. Our memory verses for the year are as follows: Hebrews 11:1, Genesis 15:1, Hebrews 11:6, Genesis 50:20, Hebrews 11:25-26, Joshua 1:9, I John 5:4b, Proverbs 14:12 and Romans 8:18. Review these verses by repeating them to yourself, then explain how you've been able to use one of these verses in your life recently.

Read Hebrews 11:1-12:3.

Notice how many times the phrase "by faith" is repeated. Remember, it was not by strength or determination or outstanding ability that these people were able to persevere but by faith in God.

2. What truths about God have you learned in these studies that will help you to live by faith? List as many as you can think of, supporting your answers with verses.

3. Below is a list of qualities that a person of faith might exhibit. For each quality, name one hero of faith and tell how that quality was seen in his/her life.

Eternal Perspective

Being a God-Seeker

Waiting/Patience

Obedience

Trust/Acceptance

Perseverance Through Trials

Others

4. List one or two of these heroes of faith that you particularly identify with and tell why.

5. As you think back on their times of weakness, failure, and doubt, what did you learn from them (and about God) that encourages you?

6. What principles about faith did you learn this year that were most meaningful to you?

7. What change(s) have you made in your attitudes and actions as a result of this study?

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand." Romans 5:1-2