

HEBREWS 11:4-6

1. For one day count how many times you are consciously aware of God's presence as you go through the day.

Read Hebrews 11

Re-read Hebrews 11:4-6 several times. Invite the Spirit to be your teacher and to show you new and wonderful things from His Word.

In this lesson we will concentrate on the lives of four people: Abel, Cain, Enoch and you. We will be examining how each of these four lives demonstrate faith or the lack of it.

2. Thoughtfully read the following passages, making note of any questions or comments you might have.
Genesis 4:1-5

I John 3:11-13

3. In Genesis 4:1-5 what is implied by the mere fact that both Cain and Abel brought an offering to the Lord?
4. Many think the reason the Lord looked with favor on Abel's offering was that it was a blood sacrifice, while Cain's was a grain offering. However, Hebrews 11:4 makes the point that the difference was not so much in what was offered but how it was offered. Explain.
5. a. Cain and Abel were the third and fourth people to live on this earth. They were both real people, very much like us. Each was born after "the Fall". Like us, each faced a choice and each made a decision concerning God. Each also serves as an example to us. Complete the following table:

<u>Cain is an example of one who was not faithful</u>	<u>Abel is an example of one who was faithful</u>
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- b. Read Jude 11 and Proverbs 14:12. What does Scripture warn about those who follow Cain's example or the way of Cain?

One who is righteous is one who has received the approval of God. If by faith **you are in Christ, you are righteous.** (II Corinthians 5:21)

Re-read Hebrews 11:4b and Genesis 4:4-5.

Hebrews 11:4b states that, "By faith Abel was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings." (NIV) We do not know how this was communicated to Cain and Abel. Some early church fathers thought that perhaps fire from heaven consumed the offering (Leviticus 9:23-24; Judges 13:19-20; II Chronicles 7:1). Others maintain that God simply spoke to them (Genesis 4:6). It's very likely that God did both.

6. a. Not one of Abel's words have been preserved, so how does Abel still speak to us about authentic faith?

- b. What is he saying to you?

- c. Name a way in which your life speaks to others.

The beginning of the life of faith is believing that we are sinners in need of forgiveness and deliverance. We come, by faith, accepting Christ's sacrifice on the cross on our behalf. Then, out of gratitude, by faith, we offer ourselves as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1) and have the opportunity to begin to walk with God. If you have any questions about coming to God by faith in Christ, discuss them with your leader.

Read Genesis 5:21-24 and re-read Hebrews 11:5.

7. What facts are we told about Enoch?

8. a. What phrase is used in Genesis 5:22 and 24 to describe Enoch's life of faith?

- b. What do you picture when you think of two walking together?

- c. What do you think it means "to walk with God"?

- d. Do you think it is a strenuous exercise "to walk with God"? Why or why not?

- e. Contrast Genesis 5:24 with Genesis 4:16. It is a choice.

9. a. Many Christians realize that they are saved by faith. Think about Enoch's life and read the following passages: II Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 10:38; Habakkuk 2:4. To what conclusion are you drawn?

b. Give an example from your own life of "living by faith".

10. In Genesis 4 we see Abel coming to God by faith to worship and sacrifice. In Genesis 4:26 we see men beginning to "call upon the name of the Lord." In Genesis 5:21-24 we see Enoch walking with God, by faith. What progression, if any, do you see?

11. a. What key word found at the end of Hebrews 11:5 is also found at the beginning of Hebrews 11:6?

b. What is necessary to please God?

c. What are some things people are told please God? Must we do these things to please God?

12. Hebrews 11:6 is not an all inclusive list but does include two things we are to believe. What are they?

Do you believe God exists, that He is? This is a very important question. Unbelief is a sin. (John 16:9) Confess it. Speak honestly to God about your unbelief. Leave it with Him.

13. a. Do you believe that God rewards those who seek Him?

b. If God is a God who rewards those who seek Him, what does that tell us about God?

14. a. Using a dictionary, define the word, "seek".

b. THINK. Do you seek Him (God), or do you seek that which He gives? Explain the difference.

c. Is it possible for someone to believe that God is but not to seek Him? Describe such a person.

Re-read Hebrews 11:1 and 11:6.

15. What relationship do you see between the following phrases?
"Certain of what we do not see" and "believe that He exists" (NIV)

"assurance of things hoped for" and "rewards those who seek him" (NASB)

What the Old Testament saints did, they did "by faith". They were people who believed God and relied on Him.

How were the people of the Old Testament made right with God? _____

How were the people of the New Testament made right with God? _____

How are we made right with God? _____

How do we come to God? _____

How do we live or walk with God after we come? _____

Caution: Remember that our faith is not what saves us. Christ saves us. Faith is the means or the instrument through which He saves us.

16. Reflect on the passages read and on your answers to the questions. Think about the lives of Abel, Cain and Enoch. Finally, think about your life. What significance do the words "by faith" have for you?

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