

Series Title: 'Faith in Action'

Subtitle: 'Growing our faith in God amidst the storms that life brings'

Primary Aim: The theme is "Faith in Action and in addition to the passages associated with each session (all themes hung around but not necessarily restricted by the content in Hebrews 11) we would love to get our teeth into the following questions: (1) What is authentic faith? Isn't faith just a crutch? (2) Why believe in Jesus when I feel such pain or disappointment? (3) How do I build a foundation that will hold through the storms?"

1. The Nature and Faith: The unseen reality

Passages: Hebrews 11:1-7 & Genesis 4-9

Blurb: Drawing on the Bible's teaching about faith we will think about 'what is faith', 'what does faith believe' and 'why is this faith reasonable'. To ground this in reality we will consider what we can learn from the examples of Creation, Cain & Abel, Enoch and Noah.

2. Authentic Faith: Waiting and Disappointment

Passages: Hebrews 11:8-16 & Genesis 15-21, Galatians 3:6-9

Blurb: What would a "model faith" faith look like and how does that contrast with the authentic model of faith borne out by Abraham as he walks the path of disappointment as he waits for God to work out His promises in and through his life.

3. Misplaced faith: Testing and Idolatry

Passages: Hebrews 11:17-22 & Genesis 22, 29

Blurb: The climax of the Abraham story is not the birth of Isaac but God's shocking command to go and sacrifice Isaac to Him. We will think about how even the best of things can become idols in our lives and illustrate this through the story of lovesick Jacob.

4. Substance of Faith: Choice and Action

Passages: Hebrews 11:23-28 & James 2:14-26

Blurb: Faith is about a decision to follow and the life of Moses is a great case study about this. We will think about the implications of the choices to follow God taken by Moses and his parents. We'll also look at James' teaching on the relationship between faith and action.

5. Faith and Doubt: Faith that holds firm

Passages: Hebrews 11:29-31, Exodus 16-17 & Joshua 1-2, 5-6

Blurb: The people of Israel are a great case study in faith and doubt. Despite the wonders God performs in the Exodus the Israelites journey through the wilderness is characterised by stories of both faith and doubt. We will examine what it means to believe without seeing.

6. Faithful Courage: Walking by Faith

Passages: Hebrews 11:32-12:3 & Various

Blurb: In our final session we consider the great cloud of witnesses who surround us; those who through courageous faith have walked by faith and not by sight in spite of great opposition and at huge personal cost. We will name and shame all that stops us from walking this life of faith and putting it into action.