

Adult Bible Teacher

For Teachers of Adults Ages 18 and Up

Trust
in the
LORD
with all
thine heart

Proverbs 3:5

Summer Quarter

June | July | August

2025

Large-Print Edition

Adult Bible Teacher

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SUMMER QUARTER

June, July, August 2025

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Daily Bible Readings for Home Study and Worship

(Readings are for the week previous to the lesson topics.)

1. June 1. Learn from Good Examples

M—Enoch Walks with God. Gen. 5:21-24.
T—Noah Finds Favor. Gen. 6:9-22.
W—Abram Is Called by God. Gen. 12:1-5.
T—Abram's Shield and Reward. Gen. 15:1-6.
F—Sarah—Mother of Nations. Gen. 17:15-22.
S—Things Not Seen Are Eternal. II Cor. 4:16—5:7.
S—Embrace the Promises. Heb. 11:1-2, 4-13.

2. June 8. Learn from Bad Examples

M—God's Wonders Forgotten. Ps. 78:9-17.
T—Corruption in the Camp. Ex. 32:1-10.
W—Doubting God's Provision. Ps. 78:18-31.
T—Despising God's Provision. Num. 21:4-9.
F—Rebellion Met with Compassion. Ps. 78:32-39.
S—Israel Seduced. Num. 25:1-15.
S—Israel's Failures Serve as Warnings. I Cor. 9:24—10:13.

3. June 15. Seek Godly Wisdom

M—Where Does One Find Wisdom? Job 28:12-28.
T—Teach Them to Your Children. Deut. 11:18-23.
W—Delight in God's Word. Ps. 1:1-6.
T—The Lord Gives Wisdom. Prov. 2:1-9.
F—Follow Parental Instruction. Prov. 6:20-23.
S—Wisdom Preserves Us. Prov. 4:1-9.
S—Godly Wisdom Brings Life. Prov. 4:10-15, 20-27.

4. June 22. Hold Fast to the Gospel

M—No One Is Righteous. Rom. 3:9-20.
T—God Imputes Righteousness. Rom. 3:21-31.
W—Justified by Grace. Titus 3:3-8.
T—Israel Failing in Faith. Rom. 9:30—10:4.
F—Faith in God's Promise. Rom. 4:13-25.
S—Courage to Preserve the Gospel. Gal. 2:1-14.
S—Justified by Faith in Christ. Gal. 2:15—3:5.

5. June 29. Affection for Those in Christ

M—God's Love in Our Hearts. Rom. 5:1-8.
T—Love One Another. John 13:31-35.
W—Honor One Another. Rom. 12:9-21.
T—Unity in Christ. John 17:20-23.
F—Strengthen One Another. Rom. 15:1-7.
S—Love in Deed and Truth. I John 3:11-24.
S—God's Love Begets Our Love. I John 4:7-21.

6. July 6. Affection for Christ's Church

M—One Body, Many Members. I Cor. 12:4-13.
T—Edifying the Church. I Cor. 14:1-5.
W—Unity of the Spirit. Eph. 4:1-6.
T—Submit One to Another. Eph. 5:15-21.
F—Do Not Forsake Fellowship. Heb. 10:19-25.
S—The Lord's Love for His Church. Eph. 5:25-32.
S—Esteem One Another. Phil. 2:1-13.

7. July 13. Affection for Things Above

M—Future Redemption of Our Bodies. Rom. 8:18-25.
T—Future Inheritance. Eph. 1:3-14.
W—The Faithful Are Preserved. Ps. 31:19-24.
T—Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ. Rom. 6:1-14.
F—Children of Light. Eph. 5:1-10.
S—Walk in the Spirit. Gal. 5:16-26.
S—Put on the New Man. Col. 3:1-17.

8. July 20. Humility Before God

M—The Lord Sees the Lowly. Ps. 138:4-6.
T—Be Clothed in Humility. I Pet. 5:5-7.
W—Humility Brings Exaltation. Luke 18:9-14.

T—God Revives the Heart of the Humble. Isa. 57:13-21.
F—Self-exaltation Brings Humiliation. Luke 14:7-11.
S—Be Rich Toward God. Luke 12:13-21.
S—Submit to God. Jas. 4:1-10, 13-17.

9. July 27. Be Doers of the Word

M—Restrained Speech Is Wise. Prov. 10:19-21.
T—Wisdom Shown in Our Words. Prov. 15:1-4.
W—Wisdom in Silence. Prov. 17:27-28.
T—Strength in Controlling Anger. Prov. 16:32; 19:11.
F—Carry out God's Justice. Jer. 7:1-7.
S—Godly Care for Widows. I Tim. 5:3-16.
S—Practice Pure Religion. Jas. 1:19-27.

10. August 3. Pray for Peace

M—The Lord Hears Our Prayers. Ps. 28:1-9.
T—The Spirit Helps Us Pray. Rom. 8:26-28.
W—God's Mercy Is Everlasting. Ps. 100:1-5.
T—Kept by God's Peace. Phil. 4:4-7.
F—Be Peaceable to All Men. Titus 3:1-2.
S—Jesus, Our Mediator. Heb. 9:15-28.
S—Pray for the Success of the Gospel. I Tim. 2:1-8.

11. August 10. Live in Light of the Gospel

M—Serve as Serving Christ. Eph. 6:5-9.
T—Watch and Pray. Mark 14:37-41.
W—An Open Door to Preach. II Cor. 2:12-17.
T—Lives Directed by God. II Thess. 3:1-5.
F—The Mystery of the Gospel. Col. 1:21-29.
S—Be Salt and Light in the World. Matt. 5:13-16.
S—Wisdom in Sharing the Gospel. Col. 4:1-6.

12. August 17. Trust the Lord

M—God's Word Is Near. Deut. 30:11-16.
T—The Lord Leads Us in His Truth. Ps. 25:4-10.
W—The Lord Is Gracious. Ps. 111:1-10.
T—Firstfruits for the Levites. Deut. 18:1-5.
F—Trusting God Brings Blessings. Deut. 28:1-14.
S—Righteousness Through Chastening. Heb. 12:5-11.
S—God Directs All Who Trust Him. Prov. 3:1-12.

13. August 24. Be Vigilant

M—The Flesh Wars Against the Spirit. Rom. 7:14-25.
T—Hated Because of Christ. Matt. 10:16-22.
W—Correct Others in Meekness. II Tim. 2:22-25.
T—Differing Gifts by God's Grace. Rom. 12:3-8.
F—The Righteous Are Not Forsaken. Ps. 37:23-34.
S—Perfectly Equipped for God's Service. Heb. 13:20-21.
S—Watch, For the End Is Near. I Pet. 2:11-12; 3:13-17; 4:7-11; 5:8-10.

14. August 31. Be Ready

M—The Day of the Lord Brings Destruction. Isa. 13:6-16.
T—The Father Alone Knows When. Matt. 24:36-41.
W—Do Not Be Caught Unawares. Luke 21:34-36.
T—The Time of Jacob's Trouble. Jer. 30:7-9.
F—The Approaching Day of the Lord. Rom. 13:11-14.
S—Chosen for Salvation. II Thess. 2:13-17.
S—Appointed to Life with Christ. I Thess. 5:1-11.

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

HEB. 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

12 Therefore sprang there even of one, and him as good as dead, so *many* as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable.

13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of *them*, and embraced *them*, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.

NOTES

Learn from Good Examples

Lesson Text: Hebrews 11:1-2, 4-13

Related Scriptures: Genesis 4:3-7; 5:21-24; 6:9-22; 12:1-5; 17:15-22

TIME: about A.D. 67

PLACE: unknown

GOLDEN TEXT—“Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Preparing to Teach the Lesson

TODAY'S AIM

Facts: to show that we need to have faith in order to please God.

Principle: to stress that only those who have faith can please God.

Application: to emphasize the need to exercise our faith daily.

INTRODUCING THE LESSON

This week we explore the hall of faith. Here we have people who pleased God with their faith.

DEVELOPING THE LESSON

1. Faith defined (Heb. 11:1-2). Faith is the assurance of things that have not yet come to pass. In our minds, they are as good as done because we take God at His word. If God promises something we can be confident that it will happen, for God does not lie.

2. Faith in early history (Heb. 11:4-5). The hall of faith is listed for us so that we can look back at those who trusted God in early history and be encouraged to do the same. They provide us good examples to imitate (cf. I Cor. 11:1).

Abel, the second son of Adam and Eve, brought a sacrifice that was accepted unlike his brother Cain's. Abel's heart was in the right place. His attitude was right before God. Faith has its roots in a right attitude before God.

Get the class to talk about hindrances to a pure heart in their lives and how this affects faith.

3. Faith needed to please God (Heb. 11:6). Here is the crux of the matter. We cannot please God without faith. In other words, if we do not trust and rely on Him, we cannot please Him. Give your students time to discuss the areas in which they find it hardest to trust Him. Think of ways to encourage faith in those areas. Are there characters in the Bible who experienced struggles with similar issues? How did God take care of them?

4. Faith to face the Flood (Heb. 11:7). The faith that Noah exercised was incredible. First, he had the task of living a righteous life in an evil community. Noah also had to trust God that He would send rain just as He promised, even though he may have never seen rain before.

5. Abraham's faith (Heb. 11:8-12). Here is an amazing account of an old man who was asked to leave his country and go to a land that would be shown to him. There was no map or compass to guide him, and he did not even know the destination. He only had the promise of an invisible God that He would reveal the way and the destination one step at a time; but Abraham obeyed and left everything when he was already seventy-five years old (cf. Gen. 12:4).

Abraham, like Isaac and Jacob who came after him, lived in tents and moved around in the wilderness be-

cause he trusted in God's promise of a "city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" (Heb. 11:10).

6. A visionary faith (Heb. 11:13). Sometimes God does not fulfill His promises as quickly as we want Him to, but God always has a plan when He makes us wait. We must be willing to wait for God's very best, even if it takes a little more time than we would like.

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

In our next lesson we will consider how bad examples that we can learn from.

—A. Koshy Muthalaly

Studying the Text

FAITH DEFINED—Heb. 11:1-2

Hebrews 11:1 is one of the most familiar Bible verses because it answers an important question: What is faith? The verse consists of two descriptive phrases; the second phrase further explains the first.

{The word translated as "substance" can refer to an objective reality or to a strong confidence in something (see 1:3 and 10:34, where the word is used in these two ways). Perhaps the two senses can be combined; biblical faith is confidence in something objectively true.}^{q1} It is not some ethereal, unfounded feeling, as the world sometimes understands the idea of faith.

{The biblical idea of hope is also different from the world's idea of a desperate, against-all-odds clinging to the notion that things might turn out all right. The believer's hope is built on the firm foundation of the promises of God and His redeeming purpose.}^{q2} This biblical view of hope is as certain as God is trustworthy and good.

The word "evidence" can refer to strong convictions that arise in the pres-

ence of proof. People of faith believe in the unseen spiritual realities as much as if they were visible to the eye. These spiritual realities are of eternal value, things that make life worth living (cf. II Cor. 4:18).

"Elders" here refers to his Jewish readers' Old Testament ancestors. (Additionally, the author of Hebrews was almost certainly a Christian of Jewish ancestry himself.) {Faith was the means by which these ancestors "obtained a good report," or were declared righteous in God's sight (cf. Gen. 15:6) and thus were the recipients of God's approval.}^{q3}

FAITH ILLUSTRATED—Heb. 11:4-13

Abel (Heb. 11:4). The list of people of faith proceeds chronologically. The first example goes back to the son of Adam, the first man. In Genesis 4:2-7, Abel, a shepherd, offered a sacrifice of one of the firstborn of his flock—even the choicest meat. For this reason, the Lord looked with favor on this sacrifice. God did not look with favor on Cain's offering, for he merely offered some of his crops—not his best.

The emphasis of Hebrews is that Abel offered his sacrifice by faith and that this is what prompted God's acceptance of his gift. This acceptance was a testimony that Abel was counted as righteous in God's sight, but his brother was not.

{The phrase "he being dead yet speaketh" has become a figure of speech for someone's long-lasting influence.}^{q4} In Abel's case, although he suffered an early death at the hands of his envious brother, his example of faith lives on as an example and inspiration to God's people. His life had an eternal value and purpose.

Enoch (Heb. 11:5-6). {Because of his great faith, Enoch received the mysterious blessing of not experiencing death. Genesis 5:24 reports that Enoch "walked with God: and he was not; for God took him."}^{q5} The term "translated" in Hebrews means "to transfer, to remove from one place to another" (Rienecker and Rogers, *Linguistic Key to the Greek New Testament*, Zondervan). In the midst of his life he was taken to be in the presence of the God with whom he had already been walking so closely.

Only by faith can a person please God, as Enoch did. Hebrews 11:6 explains the indispensability of faith. Enoch's life illustrates the life of faith that should be evident in all of God's people. He is said to have walked with God, so we know that he possessed the two crucial components of faith that this verse says are at the heart of a relationship with Him. {We must believe that God exists, and that He rewards those who seek Him.}^{q6}

Since Enoch had fellowship with God, he certainly believed that God existed. True knowledge of God is more than merely an intellectual acknowledgment of a divine being. It is an experiential knowledge of the One who has revealed Himself in His Word. The second crucial belief is that God rewards those who

seek Him. The fact that Enoch continued in his fellowship with God is evidence that he was anticipating the blessings that God promises to those who are dedicated and passionate about their desire to know Him (cf. Ps. 119:2; Matt. 7:7).

Noah (Heb. 11:7). {One of the most widely known figures from the Bible, Noah demonstrated his faith by building a huge sea vessel (and building it inland!) when there was not yet any sign that it was needed.}^{q7} He believed what God told him (cf. Gen. 6:11-22); his faith provided him with "the evidence of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1).

Abraham (Heb. 11:8-10). {Considering that Abraham is often regarded as the father of the faithful (cf. Gal. 3:6-9, 29), it is not surprising that the author of Hebrews made a more extended study of his example of faith.}^{q8} God commanded him to leave his homeland of Ur, in southeastern Mesopotamia, and travel to a land many hundreds of miles away. Incredibly, when he set out, he was not even sure where he was going! He went only with the promise that God was going to give him an inheritance, many blessings, and the honor of becoming a blessing to the whole world (cf. Gen. 12:1-3).

{Abraham's faith would be tested again and again. When he got to the place where God wanted him to go, he did not immediately see much evidence that the Promised Land was going to be his. Hebrews 11:9 says he "sojourned" in the land, meaning that he lived as a stranger there. He was an alien who did not feel at home among the people he found in Canaan—people who had no intention of giving up what belonged to them.

Much time passed, and Abraham continued to have a generally nomadic existence. He lived in tents ("tabernacles"), a striking symbol of the fact that he had no real home at this point. The passage of time is highlighted by the

fact that first Isaac and then Jacob—who themselves were in line to be heirs of God’s covenant and would be singled out for their faith in this chapter (vss. 20-21)—arrived on the scene and the situation did not seem to change (Jacob was fifteen when Abraham died [cf. Gen. 21:5; 25:7, 26]). During all this time Abraham never formally owned any land except the parcel he bought for his family’s burial (cf. 23:13-20). We also cannot forget how Abraham’s faith was tested when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac, the child of promise (cf. Gen. 22:1-19)! Yet Abraham trusted God, and had faith that He could even raise his son from the dead (Heb. 11:19).}⁹⁹

Sarah (Heb. 11:11-13). Biblical scholars disagree about whether the original Greek of this verse makes Abraham’s or Sarah’s faith the main focus. Whichever side is correct, it surely is not unimportant that Sarah is mentioned here.

It is true that Sarah did not respond very well when first informed that she was to have a child (cf. Gen. 18:9-15), but she was around ninety years old, well past the age for bearing children. Despite her initial response, Sarah must be commended for her growth in faith and willingness to trust God with the seemingly impossible.

Because of the faith of both Abraham and Sarah, abundant life sprang forth from those as good as dead (Heb. 11:12). Abraham and Sarah were indeed “as good as dead” as far as a reasonable hope of having a family was concerned, but God is not limited in what He can bring to pass.

The “these all” of Hebrews 11:13 refers to everyone mentioned thus far in the chapter, including Abel, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah. The “promises” include not only the ones given to Abraham, but also to others (cf. Gen. 3:15). The patriarchs did not live to experience the fulfillment of what had been promised, but their faith remained strong until the day

of their death. It was as if they could envision the reality of God’s promised kingdom off in the distance (cf. vs. 1). This is what they lived for and longed for, and this is what sustained them.

As an old song says, “This world is not my home, / I’m just a passin’ thru.” {Every person of faith recognizes that we are spiritual pilgrims on the way to better things (cf. I Pet. 2:11). The patriarchs of old did not let themselves get too attached to what the world has to offer. Let us follow their example, living by faith for what will truly last. This world is not our home. We are called to live in the world, but we are not of the world (cf. John 17:14-16).}¹⁰

—Stephen H. Barnhart

QUESTIONS

1. What does the word “substance” in Hebrews 11:1 mean?
2. How is the biblical idea of hope different from the world’s?
3. What does it mean to obtain a “good report” (vs. 2)?
4. What does “he being dead yet speaketh” mean?
5. In what special way did God bless the faith of Enoch?
6. What are the two crucial components of faith that make a relationship with God possible?
7. How did Noah demonstrate that he was a man of faith?
8. Why did the author of Hebrews devote extra attention to the life of Abraham?
9. What circumstances acted as tests of Abraham’s faith?
10. How should the fact that we are strangers in this world affect the way we live?

—Stephen H. Barnhart

PRACTICAL POINTS

1. God commends people in any age who will trust Him even when they do not see the immediate fulfillment of His promises (Heb. 11:1-2).
2. True faith always impacts the way one worships and lives (vs. 4).
3. Faith prompts us to act in accordance with the conviction that God will reward us (vss. 5-6).
4. People of faith obey God even when they do not fully understand Him (vs. 7).
5. People of faith are willing to act on what God has said and to leave the results up to Him (vss. 8-10).
6. God always rewards our faith, no matter how small or faltering it may be (vss. 11-13).

—Don Kakavecos

RESEARCH AND DISCUSSION

1. How do you define faith? Be sure to include all of the criteria found in Hebrews 11:1 and 11:6.
2. In what way did Abel display faith (Heb. 11:4; cf. Gen. 4:1-11)? How did Cain fail to display faith?
3. Whose faith still speaks or witnesses to you even today? What made this person's faith so impactful for you?
4. Did Abraham always obey God (cf. Gen. 12)? If not, why is he characterized as a man of faith? What does this fact teach us about faith?
5. What one truth does each of these men of faith prove (cf. Heb. 11:6)?
6. What does Sara's inclusion on this list teach us about faith? How is that encouraging?

—Don Kakavecos

ILLUSTRATED HIGH POINTS

The substance of things hoped for (Heb 11:1)

Children remember Christmas more for the getting than for the giving. I remember hopes, dreams, and even some snooping about what might be under the tree come Christmas morning. I cannot recall ever being disappointed by what was given me.

What I do remember is that often the things that I wanted materialized. I may not have had faith that I would receive a certain item, but hope is often similar to faith.

He being dead yet speaketh (vs. 4)

People often say something like "I can still hear my mother saying—" or "As my father used to say—" Usually, the parent had died years before, yet the wisdom or advice offered long ago still reverberates in the mind of the next generation. Anyone with faith can have this influence on those around them.

The same could be said for hymn writers and authors whose works have outlived them. Though long gone from this earthly life, their influence continues to affect others.

She judged him faithful (vs. 11)

A husband said that he had often been tempted while away on business but that thus far two thoughts had prevented him from giving in to sin. First, he knew that God was against sin and that sinning could bring about God's disciplinary hand. Second, he thought of his wife and the fact that she trusted him. She had faith in his faithfulness, and that helped keep him from sin. God is infinitely more trustworthy than anyone else.

—Darrell W. McKay