



Sermon Growth Guide

January 26, 2025

God Makes a Covenant

Hebrews 11: 8-19

Key Verse: Hebrews 11:8

“By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.”

Big Idea: When we trust the promises God has made to us, we can go confidently to the places He sends us.

Foundations

The Letter to the Hebrews has been described as a great encouragement to those seeking to live faithful lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. Throughout the letter we are urged to listen to the voice of God which is heard in Jesus Christ. We are warned against procrastinating in our faith journey. We are cheered on as we run the race of faith. And, in Hebrews 11, we are given examples of less than perfect people who lived in hope of the promises of God.

In today's reading, we focus on the faithfulness of Abraham and Sarah. We know that their lives were not morally perfect, but we know that they took risks, leaving the comfort and security of an earthly city to live a transient life. Promised land and descendants that would make a great nation, Abraham died having one heir and owning only his burial grounds.

Abraham had to live by faith, hoping that the promises of God would be kept. God promised him a forever home and that his descendants would be a great nation. And while Abraham trusted God, God then asked him to give up the only sign that the promise would be kept. In providing the ram and saving Isaac, God proved His trustworthiness in the face of the impossible.

We live in a culture where our first instinct is to doubt what we read or hear. Hebrews 11 is an historical record that shows that faith feeds hope, and hope moves us forward.

Understanding God's Word

Read together Hebrews 11:8-19

How would you describe the different aspects of faith you see described in the life of Abraham and Sarah?

C.S. Lewis has written: “If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world.” How do you think this thought relates to our experience of hope?

Applying God's Word

Abraham is promised a city designed and built by God, but he lived his life in tents. What do you think this detail tells us about how we should live in relation to earthly matters as we seek to trust the promises of God?

Witnessing God's Word

Tom Long, in his commentary on Hebrews said this: Faith as an inward reality sings “We shall overcome,” while faith as an outward reality marches on to Selma! Where, in your life, can your singing – your belief that something is true, lead to marching – acting on that truth so that Jesus is revealed to those around you?