

# **FLAWED BUT FAITH-FILLED**

Hebrews 11:20-22

- The writer of Hebrews continues to establish the fact that it is **ONLY BY FAITH** in Jesus, the Messiah, that one can be saved and inherit the promise that has been known throughout the generations...the promise of a homeland...an eternal place where we would reside and be God's people forever.
- "These all died in faith, although they had not received the things that were promised. But they saw them from a distance, greeted them, and confessed that they were foreigners and temporary residents on the earth." (Hebrews 11:13)

## **FAITH-FILLED CHRISTIANS PASS THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD AND HIS SALVATION THROUGH JESUS ON TO OTHERS**

- **Isaac's example**
- "By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come." (Hebrews 11:20)
- "When the men of the place asked about his wife, he said, "She is my sister," for he was afraid to say "my wife," thinking, "The men of the place will kill me on account of Rebekah, for she is a beautiful woman." (Genesis 26:7)
- "When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife, Sarai, 'Look, I know what a beautiful woman you are. 12 When the Egyptians see you, they will say, "This is his wife." They will kill me but let you live. 13 Please say you're my sister so it will go well for me because of you, and my life will be spared on your account.'" (Genesis 12:11-13)
- **What are you passing on to your children? To others? Will what you pass on be temporary, or eternal?**
- **Jacob's Example**
- "By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and he worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff." (Hebrews 11:21)

## **FAITH-FILLED CHRISTIANS PURSUE A STRONG CONNECTION WITH GOD**

- "Then Jacob made a vow: 'If God will be with me and watch over me during this journey I'm making, if he provides me with food to eat and clothing to wear, 21 and if I return safely to my father's family, then the Lord will be my God. 22 This stone that I have set up as a marker will be God's house, and I will give to you a tenth of all that you give me.'"

## **FAITH-FILLED CHRISTIANS GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE LORD**

## **FAITH-FILLED CHRISTIANS BELIEVE GOD DESPITE CIRCUMSTANCES**

- **Joseph's Example**
- "By faith Joseph, as he was nearing the end of his life, mentioned the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions concerning his bones." (Hebrews 11:22)
- "Israel said to Joseph, 'Look, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will bring you back to the land of your fathers.'" (Genesis 48:21)
- "Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am about to die, but God will certainly come to your aid and bring you up from this land to the land he swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.' 25 So Joseph made the sons of Israel take an oath: 'When God comes to your aid, you are to carry my bones up from here.'" (Genesis 50:24-25)

## **CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

### **Observation**

- How do verses 20-22 connect to the larger theme of Hebrews 11?
- Even though Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph never saw God's promises fulfilled in their lifetime, what was their perspective on God's promises?
- Jacob committed to giving a tenth of all God gave him. How does generosity reveal our trust in God?

### **Understanding**

- Isaac had failures, yet he still passed on God's promises to his children. What are some spiritual truths you want to pass on to your children, friends, or others in your life?
- How can we make sure what we pass on to others is eternal and not just temporary?
- Jacob had many flaws, yet he sought a personal relationship with God. How does this encourage you when you think about your own shortcomings?
- Joseph believed God's promises even in the face of betrayal, slavery, and prison. How does this help you to trust God despite painful or confusing circumstances?

### **Loving Outward:**

- Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
- Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
- Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?