



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“HEROES THEN AND TODAY ” ON MAY 12 AND 15, 2022

CONNECT

How did last week's passage we read/discussed affect your week?

DISCOVER: HEBREWS 11:32-40

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn't understand, phrases that didn't make sense, etc.)?

Hebrews 11: Having a steadfast faith in God does not guarantee an easy path in life! Choosing to walk in God's way, which is rooted in truth and grace, differs greatly from walking in the way of the world, which is rooted in selfishness and pride! We read of the greats in Hebrews 11 – stories of meeting tremendous challenges, of enduring persecution, torture, prison and death. How does this chapter speak into our lives day by day?

Most OT prophets were killed because they chose to walk in God's way – they lived their lives in a way that showed people “This is Who God is!” What does it look like to walk in God's way rather than the world's way right now, today, in our culture?

- Can you describe parts of your life or situations where, as a Christ follower, you feel different from others – perhaps that you don't fit in? How comfortable are you with that? What is your first reaction to a such a situation? What choices could you make to use those times to show who God is?

Stephen loved people enough to tell them Jesus was the Savior even when it meant his life was in danger. His faith drove him to honor God in his conduct and his words no matter the danger; he stepped up and spoke out, and he saw the glory of God! Read his story in Acts 6:8 – 7:60.

- Look at Acts 7:51 – 53: How do you think you would respond if you had the opportunity to stand for your faith as Stephen did in these verses? If you were unable to find eloquent words, in what other ways could you stand for your faith and honor God?
- Jason shared in his message a situation in which a friend's wife was stoned to death because of their ministry in a certain area; yet the man later returned to that very place to resume his ministry, choosing to walk in God's way despite his terrible loss. How would you describe his faith, his courage and his commitment to God to get back to his ministry? What things would hold you back from responding the way Jason's friend did?

Despite miraculous works of God on his behalf, Elijah ran away into hiding when Jezebel threatened to kill him - instead of crying out to God. He hid out 40 days and 40 nights, all alone, until God came to him and drew him back into service. (I Kings 19: 1-19)

- Has there ever been a time in your life when you felt alone, broken, and unable to move forward? How did you respond to that difficult time? If you found your way out of that time, how did that happen, and what do you learn from that?
- Elijah heard God not in wind, earthquake, or fire, but in a WHISPER; why do you think God spoke to Elijah this way? Can you share a time you experienced the whisper of God or heard Him speak to you in a special way?
- How could you use examples from those whose lives we have studied in Hebrews 11 to encourage someone in your life who is feeling alone and broken? How can you help them 'get back in the game'?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

SERMON STUDY GUIDE CONT.

Hebrews 11:40 God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

- What is the 'something better' God has planned for all of those in the Hall of Faith, along with us?
- How will you love and serve people this week the way Jesus would love and serve them?

RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.