

Embracing the Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ

Hebrews

LESSON 11, DAY 1



Focus: Join the praise of our ancestors, the Israelites, from **Psalm 136** as you focus on the goodness of God this week: Today meditate on **Psalm 136:1-5**.

FEED: As we continue walking down the “hall of faith”, be encouraged. These ancients simply took God at His word. They weren’t made super-human, they simply loved God and obeyed. They made mistakes along the way, but God was faithful in spite of their weaknesses. The more they practiced faith (obeying God’s word), the stronger they became.

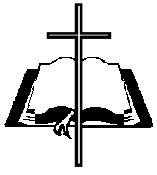
1. Listen to **Colossians 2:6-7** (NLT), “Just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord (*which was by faith*), you must continue to live in obedience to him. Let your roots grow down into him and draw up nourishment from him, so you will grow in faith, strong and vigorous in the truth you were taught. Let your lives overflow with thanksgiving for all he has done.”
 - a. Since we believe in the promise of eternal life through faith in Jesus, how should we now live? _____
 - b. How do we become strong in our faith; where does our nourishment come from? _____
 - c. How important is God’s word in this life of obedience? _____
 - d. How can someone truly obey if they don’t know the instructions? _____
 - e. What do you think are some tell tale signs that a life is overflowing with thankfulness? _____

2. As we keep reading about these witnesses of God’s faithfulness, keep in mind that the bi-product of faith is obedience. Read **Hebrews 11:17-20**.
 - a. Why did what God ask Abraham to do make absolutely NO sense from a human perspective? (Lesson 6, Day 2)

 - b. How was Abraham able to be obedient? _____
 - c. How important is it to focus on the faithfulness of God when life does not make sense? _____

3. There seems to be two main footings that our enemy (Satan) wants us to lose when we are faced with a crisis or trials in this life. He wants you to doubt:
 - God is good (loving)
 - God is sovereign (in control)
 For our faith to be strong, we need to stand sure footed on these truths about God. Can you find 1-2 verses from Scripture that testify these facts about God? Write them in the spaces above. Learn these verses by heart. These will nourish you in times of weakness and you will have strength in the midst of the test (just like Abraham!). _____

FILL: Most of us would say we could never do what Abraham did. However, God asks us to surrender what is precious to us to Him. He wants to see that we can stand on the truth of His word (like Abraham). Feeding on God’s word prepares us for those times of testing. (see Matthew 7:24-27). Are you preparing yourself? Are you living out your faith? Are you overflowing with thanksgiving? Are you tempted to doubt God’s goodness, or His sovereignty? Talk to God, tell him your honest thoughts.



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LESSON 11, DAY 2



Focus: Meditate today on **Psalm 136:6-10**

FEED: Read **Hebrews 11:21-22**. An interesting fact about the faith of these patriarchs is that they each issued these blessings at the very end of their lives, as they were facing death. In other words, their faith went beyond their death. They trusted God's promises without seeing the fulfillment, and demonstrated that faith in their blessings to their children and grandchildren.

1. What do you learn about faith being 'unseen' by this testimony? _____

2. All of these accounts are found in Genesis and are very interesting to read. One interesting fact is that Jacob blessed his twelve sons (remember, the twelve tribes). If you remember the story of Joseph, none of these men deserved any kind of blessing from God (they tried to kill their brother Joseph, and then sold him as a slave to an Egyptian officer). The story of Joseph beautifully illustrates the sovereignty of God and illuminates the truth that God has a plan, and nothing (not even our disobedience) will thwart His plan. These brothers even tried to manipulate Joseph for forgiveness. Read the last few verses of Genesis and see what happens. **Genesis 50:15-21**
 - a. Why were the brothers afraid to approach Joseph? _____

 - b. What did they scheme up? _____

 - c. Write out a summary of Joseph's response from **verses 19-21** (don't you want to read the whole story now?)

 - d. Read **Genesis 50:22-25**. What promise does Joseph refer to in **verse 24**? (the Jews were enslaved to Egypt by this time) _____

3. Moses is the perfect example of how God is in control. Read **Hebrews 11:23** along with **Exodus 1:15-22**. What was the King's edict? _____
 - a. Did the midwives obey God or the king? _____
 - b. How did God honor their obedience? _____

 - c. What was "Plan B" for the king? _____

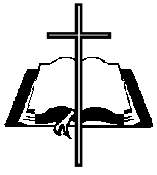
 - d. What did Moses' parents do? At what risk do you think they exercised their faith here? _____

4. Do you understand the "promise" that all of these saints stood upon was God's promise to redeem Israel? To make her right before God again. They lived in the foreshadow of the cross. The whole Old Testament points to the cross, so learning about all these saints and the law adds richness and depth to our understanding and love for the cross (see **Hebrews 10:1**). Their faith was based on the promise of a future cross (or redeemer); ours is based upon the promise of a past (cross), crucified redeemer. Much of the New Testament can not be understood unless we have a knowledge of the Old Testament. Is your understanding of the 'whole book' growing? In what way? _____

FILL: God's method for redeeming His children has never changed. It has been and always will be through faith in Christ Jesus, the Messiah. Our Old Testament family trusted in the coming Messiah, we trust in the Risen Messiah. Are you gaining an appreciation for the scope of God's plan? Talk to Him about what you are learning.

FOLLOW: Journal any truths you want to remember. Keep learning Hebrews 12:9





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LESSON 11, DAY 3



Focus: Today meditate on **Psalm 136:11-15**

FEED: Read on about Moses from **Hebrews 11:24-28**. Moses could have lived in the lap of luxury with all the treasures of Egypt his whole life, but his faith would not let him.

1. What did he do according to **verse 24**? _____

Note: the slaves of Egypt were the Jews who were forced to do hard labor. They made bricks which was a back breaking task. They had quotas to meet each day, and if those quotas were not met, severe punishment would take place.

• Why do you think living in the royal palace would be associated with the pleasures of sin? (v. 25) _____

2. What motivated him to suffer this way (v. 26)? _____

a. In what way did Moses prove himself an heir of Christ according to **Romans 8:17**? _____

b. What's promised to us as we suffer for being an heir of Christ? _____

3. Why was Moses able to persevere against all odds (v. 27)? _____

4. What else did Moses do to prove his faith according to **Hebrews 11:28** along with **Exodus 12:21-23**? _____

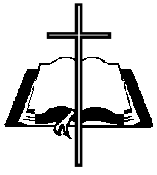
5. God called Moses to be the deliverer of His chosen people. He chose him to lead them out of Egypt and to their own home land. After many severe plagues and pleadings by Moses and Aaron, Pharoah finally relents (after the death of his own son) and let the Hebrew slaves leave Egypt. Read the climax to this story from **Exodus 14:13-31**, along with **Hebrews 11:29**. Summarize what happened: _____

6. Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph and Moses are stories of great faith. However, if you read their stories carefully you will find weakness in each of them. God's faithfulness is not dependent on His chosen tool. He will be faithful. We read these testimonies because these men chose to follow God even after they made mistakes. We read about men who trusted God with their fears and anxiety. Their stories are models of growth in their relationships with God. They kept choosing to focus on the unseen. What do you want to remember from these men of faith? _____

FILL: Do you ever wonder if God can use you? Are you exercising your faith? Remember it simply means to take Him at His word and do what He says. For example, applying **Philippians 4:8** to your every day life is an act of faith. Look that verse up and think about what that would mean for you to obey. Pick another verse and do the same thing. Do you see how simple it is? It's a choice of our will. Applying **Philippians 4:8** would serve us greatly in learning to obtain an eternal perspective like these friends of ours had. Think through what it means to walk by faith and talk to God about what you are learning.

FOLLOW: Write out a verse in your journal that you believe God wants you to show faith in. What would be the testimony about you?





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LESSON 11, DAY 4



Focus: Meditate today on **Psalm 136:16-21**

FEED: Read **Hebrews 11:30-31**. Again, the people of Jericho and the prostitute Rahab simply did what was right in the eyes of God (the unseen eyes).

1. Think about the fact that a prostitute is listed among the list of the greatest people of faith. How does that impress you? What does **James 2:25-26** say? _____

2. Read **Hebrews 11:32-38**. Let's summarize these verses. For every verse write a short synopsis and any personal comments you may have:

- 32 _____
- 33 _____
- 34 _____
- 35 _____
- 36 _____
- 37 _____
- 38 _____

3. Think about the phrase, "the world was not worthy of them." Why do you think the writer says this? _____

a. How have these saints demonstrated **Colossians 3:2**? _____

b. Once they looked in to the eyes of their Savior, do you think they regretted any of it? _____

4. Meditate on Paul's testimony from **Philippians 3:7-11**. It's a well known fact that Paul suffered harshly at the hands of the enemies of Christ.

a. Paul hadn't even met Christ yet, but sees something else as an awesome reward. What is it (v. 8)? _____

b. What does he long to be identified with (v. 10)? _____

c. How does he plan to obtain this according to **Philippians 3:12-14**? _____

d. Who does he (Paul) think should join him in this pursuit according to **Philippians. 3:15**? _____

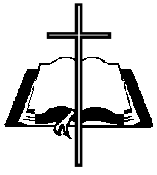
5. We not only look back at the cross with eyes of faith, but also to the promise of the return of our Redeemer. This too will affect our lives just like the promise affected all of these we've read about. What does Peter say about this to us in **2 Peter 3:10-14**? How should this promise affect our walk of faith? _____

6. Thinking back to our friends from **Hebrews 11**. What do **verses 39-40** say? (remember the fulfillment for them is the same as for us; us being made perfect through Jesus Christ) How did these saints illustrate "faith being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see?" _____

FILL: Does your life reflect a life of faith? Are you sure of what you do not see? Remember, faith is a gift from God that grows as we know Him through His word (**Romans 10:17**). Express your desire to Him to grow in faith, and to have that faith expressed through the way you live.

FOLLOW: Keep memorizing **Hebrews 12:9**





Hebrews



Focus: Look back at all of **Psalm 136** and praise God for His goodness.

Read **Hebrews 11** aloud. Skim over your lesson days.

1. Write a summary statement (no more than 1-3 sentences) of what you feel are the main points of this passage.

2. Can you pick a verse or two that seems to stand out to you? _____

3. Why did you pick this verse/these verses? _____

4. What is one truth you want to always remember from your study this week? _____

5. What lesson do you believe God would want you to apply from what you've heard from His word?

6. Any other thoughts/comments? _____

Conclude this day in prayer discussing what you've written above with the Lord.

Write out your memory verse below:

