



Open it

1. What's the costliest thing you own?

Daily Devotions

Day 1

Today's Theme: Explore It

Read Hebrews 11:35b–40

2. What are some of the ways these verses tell us people suffered for their faith?
3. What does verse 38 say about the world's relationship to these people?
4. What did these people receive from God because of their faith, according to verse 39?
5. What did these people not receive despite their faith?

Day 2

Today's Theme: Suffering Because of Your Faith

Read Hebrews 11:35b–38

Following Jesus is not a guarantee of a perfect life free from any sort of suffering and hardship. As matter of fact, if anything, Jesus promises us the exact opposite. He tells us that since the world hated Him, it shouldn't be a surprise to us if and when the world hates us also! Even though their names are mentioned here, we are given examples of people who suffered a lot because of their faith. But what are we supposed to learn from this?

- **Faith perseveres** ... Sometimes you'll face hard times in life. It's your faith that should carry you through those times. Sometimes you might even have people mocking you or excluding you because you follow Jesus. Your faith ought to keep you going. Why? Because your faith looks beyond the things that are happening right now, hoping and longing for eternity with God in heaven, free from all sin, evil, and suffering!
- **It's worth it** ... The reason these saints suffered so faithfully is not only that they had faith but because of what their faith was in. Their willingness to endure persecution is because of the great certainty they had in the promises of God. Therefore, their faith serves to magnify the promises of God, which they counted as worthy of such sufferings.

6. How have you seen your faith help you through a difficult time in your life?

7. Do you consider the gospel worth great sacrifice in your life? How does your life support that?

Day 3

Today's Theme: Fulfilled in Us

Read Hebrews 11:39–40

Hebrews 11 has been called the “Hall of Faith” for a reason. It shows a highlight reel of the faith of many who have lived before us. By faith, some accomplished great things for the Lord and by faith, some suffered faithfully even to the point of death. These people were all commended for their faith and rightfully so. They certainly weren't perfect people, but they lived with great faith.

But these people—those who suffered and those who triumphed in their faith—all died without receiving what was promised. They longed to know the Messiah who would usher in the new covenant. Peter said,

“Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.”¹

We should be thankful that God faithfully led and used these people before us to bring about His good purpose in sending Jesus to be our Savior, the One who would save us from our sins. We now have such a great blessing of their example and witness that went before us and we also now have Jesus. We know our Savior; we have confidence in His sacrifice—all things they looked forward to but never got to see.

8. Who is someone who has a faith that you'd love to have in your life? What about their faith is admirable? How has God used this person to spur you on in your own faith?

9. Is there anything in your life that is keeping you from fully relying on and serving Christ? Is there anything you would be unwilling to sacrifice for the sake of the gospel?

¹ 1 Peter 1:10–12

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