

*An Inductive Study of Hebrews 11*

by

*pam gillaspie*

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#### **Bite-Sized Sweetness**

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## **Dedicated with all my love to . . .**

Brad and Katie. Don't settle for the summary!

## **Acknowledgements**

*Unwrapping God's Story One Sweet Piece at a Time*  
**An Inductive Study of Hebrews 11**

Let me sum up *Sweeter than Chocolate!* Bibles studies for you in two words—flexible and joyful!

This Bible study series is designed to flex with your life and give you the option to go as deep each week as you desire. If you're just starting out and feeling a little overwhelmed, stick with the main text and don't think twice about the sidebar assignments. But if you're looking for a challenge, take the sidebar prompts, roll up your sleeves, and dig to your heart's content! As you move along through the study, think of the sidebars and "Digging Deeper" boxes as the elastic that will help this study fit you perfectly.

Did you know that a little flexibility can bring a lot of joy? When a study has the ability to flex to meet you, an amazing thing happens. Guilt starts to melt away and pursuing God through His Word takes on a new sense of joy. What was once a hard obligation becomes a sweet opportunity to commune with God.

So whether you're new to the Book or have been studying it for years, this joy-based study will flex to meet you where you are and push you are far as you care to go . . . and maybe even one step further!

Life has a way of ebbing and flowing and this study is designed to ebb and flow right along with it!

**Enjoy!**

## *Contents*

<i>Week One</i> The Secret to Pleasing God . . . . .	3
<i>Week Two</i> Faithful Promises Deliver Enduring Peace . . . . .	19
<i>Week Three</i> Are You Living a Bold and Fearless Life? . . . . .	39
<i>Week Four</i> Hope for the Rest of Us—God Works in Flawed People	63
<i>Week Five</i> The Key to Unlocking the Old Testament . . . . .	93
<i>Week Six</i> Playing to Win! . . . . .	117
<b>Works Cited . . . . .</b>	<b>133</b>

# How to use this study

*Sweeter than Chocolate!* studies meet you where you are and take you as far as you want to go.

**1. WEEKLY STUDY:** The main text guides you through the complete topic of study for the week.

**2. FYI boxes:** For Your Information boxes provide bite-sized material to shed additional light on the topic.

## FYI:

### Reading Tip: Begin with prayer

You may have heard this a million times over and if this is a million and one, so be it. Whenever you read or study God's Word, first pray and ask His Spirit to be your Guide.

**3. ONE STEP FURTHER and other sidebar boxes:** Sidebar boxes give you the option to push yourself a little further. If you have extra time or are looking for an extra challenge, you can try one, all, or any number in between! These boxes give you the ultimate in flexibility.

## ONE STEP FURTHER:

### Word Study: *torah*/law

The first of eight Hebrew key words we encounter for God's Word is *torah* translated "law." If you're up for a challenge this week, do a word study to learn what you can about *torah*. Run a concordance search and examine where the word *torah* appears in the Old Testament and see what you can learn about from the contexts.

If you decide to look for the word for "law" in the New Testament, you'll find that the primary Greek word is *nomos*.

Be sure to see what Paul says about the law in Galatians 3 and what Jesus says in Matthew 5.

**4. DIGGING DEEPER boxes:** If you're looking to go further, Digging Deeper sections will help you sharpen your skills as you continue to mine the truths of Scripture for yourself.

## Digging Deeper

### What else does God's Word say about counselors?

If you can, spend some time this week digging around for what God's Word says about counselors.

Start by considering what you already know about counsel from the Word of God and see if you can actually show where these truths are in the Bible. Make sure that the Word actually says what you think it says.

# Week One

## The Secret to Pleasing God

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things not seen.*  
—Hebrews 11:1

There is nothing quite like the sinking feeling of being lost. Think for a moment how the GPS is changing the way people drive. Sure we love them because they make our lives easier than maps, but they also give us that insurance against getting lost. Lost wears many faces—that of a toddler in a grocery store, a person behind the wheel of a small car in a big city, the teenager facing final exams who is two weeks along in his reading for a 16-week class.

Lost is also the condition of many people who sit in pews around the world on any given Sunday. We're not talking theologically lost here, although some are that too, we're talking lost in regard to understanding the context of the Bible. Many endure this lostness in silence not knowing quite how to correct the situation. After all, how do you "catch up" on one Book that contains 66 smaller books—a book that very few of even the most committed read through in a year? The question can be overwhelming, especially when you find yourself surrounded by others who seem to have a grip on everything that you don't!

And let's be candid here, if you don't have a working knowledge of the whole of Scripture, studying the parts becomes tougher—a lot tougher! But how do you acquire that working knowledge of the whole when the Bible is such a *big* book? It can be like trying to jump into the middle of *LOST* four years in. Have you ever wished God would publish a set of Cliff's Notes or Spark Notes for His Word? Something to get us up to speed on the basic context? Hebrews 11 is one such chapter. It's not the only summary God gives us in the Bible, but it is the most comprehensive and can bring us up to speed and into the flow of the story of the Bible quickly. Will it replace reading the whole story for yourself? Of course not! But it sure can help you feel more comfortable as you gain your bearings in this epic revelation of the love of God!

### FYI:

#### **If you're in a class**

Complete **Week One** together on your first day of class. This will be a great way to start getting to know one another and will help those who are newer to Bible study get their bearings.

## FYI:

### **The Lord of the Rings . . .**

A few years back a dear missionary family lived with us for several months. We were one big happy family of four adults, six kids, three dogs, and two and a half bathrooms. The Myers love Jesus, they love people, and they love the *Lord of the Rings* books, movies, and everything else. One weekend they decided it was time to introduce our family to this epic series. I'll never forget how lost I felt for the first hour of the movie, especially as the Myers kids kept trying to bring me up to speed on who everyone was and how they were all interrelated. I thought my brain was going to explode. The only thing I even mildly connected with in the early going was the opening setting in the Shire which struck me as bearing a curious resemblance to TeleTubby land. By the end of the first movie I had enough context to enjoy the second one, but it was a hard go.

This is very similar to what happens with many of us when we try to study the Bible. We jump in with little or no context and try to figure out how everything fits into the overall story line. More often than not, we feel like we're coming up short, and without all of the special effects wizardry we often give up quicker than we would with a movie or a television show.

Hebrews 11 is the quickstart summary, if you will, to at least bring you up to speed on many of the major players in the Bible and it so much more worthy of your time investment than *Lord of the Rings* (as good as it may be!) or any number of the hard-to-follow mystery television shows that are undoubtedly coming into your mind right about now!

## **CONSIDER the WAY you THINK**

How well do you know the story line of the Bible?

What kind of success or failure have you had in trying to read the Bible?

How have you gone about reading and/or studying?

Have you ever felt confused by an epic or involved story line in anywhere else? (Think *Lord of the Rings*, *LOST*, etc.) If so, how did you bring yourself into context?

How much affect does context have on your understanding of a story line?

## OVERVIEW OF THE TEXT

### OBSERVE the TEXT of SCRIPTURE

**READ** Hebrews 11 in your Bible making mental note of the basic story line and key words. We'll mark key words a little later.

### DISCUSS with your GROUP or PONDER on your own . . .

What characters and/or events are clearly recorded in Hebrews 11?

What other characters and/or events does the author allude to?

What are some key words that you noted?

## FYI:

### Key Words

The key word in a passage serves as a "key" to unlocking the meaning of the text. Key words are repeated and are critical to the message of the passage. While several important words are repeated in Hebrews 11, the main key word will become obvious as you read.

## ONE STEP FURTHER:

### Get the Context

If you're looking to take an extra step this week, read the book of Hebrews paying close attention to and recording every mention of Jesus and His superiority. I'll start you off:

Hebrews 1 - Jesus is better than angels.

## **FYI:**

### **Think Civil War!**

In the next FYI Box, I'm going to explain the only three dates you need to know in biblical history. Seriously. Before that, though, I want to give you a little more information to help those dates stick.

In America, we have two directional words that we associate very strongly with the Civil War . . . the North and the South. In the history of Israel, those same directional terms carry tremendous weight.

Although Israel broke apart for different reasons than America did, the short term result was the same—two separate countries. Under Saul, David, and Solomon, Israel was a United Kingdom, not unlike the United States prior to the Civil War. After that, they were a Divided Kingdom, the North and the South, again, not unlike the US during the Civil War. The big differences? They didn't fight each other and they didn't make up. More on this later!

## **HEBREWS 11 as a SUMMARY of GOD's STORY**

While there is no way to glean the entire message of the Bible without reading the whole Bible, the book of Hebrews is about as close as you can get. We've already talked about Hebrews 11 as a summary chapter that gives us a quick overview of the story line of the Bible. Beyond that, though, the author of Hebrews shows his audience the supremacy of Jesus Christ and how the entire message of the Bible relates to Him. Hebrews 11 traces the story line of most of the Old Testament, but the rest of Hebrews shows how everything relates to Jesus.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The epistle or letter to the Hebrews is included in a section of the New Testament typically referred to as the General Epistles. The General Epistles were not written to a specific church, but rather to the Church in a more general sense. Although grouped differently by various scholars, they usually include Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2 & 3 John, and Jude. Based on the content of the letter, Hebrews was probably written to a more specifically Jewish Christian audience, but because there is no recipient listed, much about Hebrews remains a mystery.

## **QUESTIONS of AUTHORSHIP and DATE**

The real rub with this letter, however, comes not so much in regard to audience as to authorship. Why so? Because when the church fathers decided on the canonicity of books that would become part of our Bible, one of the leading criteria was authorship. In other words, from a human standpoint, Hebrews is in the Bible largely because the church fathers thought Paul wrote it. Today, though, the prevailing scholarly view is that Paul probably did not write it. This has to do with both the style of writing and the fact that the author of Hebrews does not claim to have first-hand revelation. He (or she), according to Hebrews 2, appears to have heard the message from those who heard it directly from the Lord. Paul always laid claim to having first-hand information. Hebrews could be the message of Paul, but probably not his direct authorship. Some other names floated about in the discussion are Luke the physician, Apollos, Barnabus, and Priscilla either with or without Aquilla. There are tempting reasons to include each of these people in the discussion, but we must end with the words of the third century theologian Origen, "But as to who actually wrote the Letter, God alone knows."

Mystery also surrounds the date of Hebrews, again because the author gives us no direct information. The indirect information we glean from the book, however, strongly suggests a date prior to 70 AD. This date is critical in biblical history as it marks the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple under Titus (not Paul's Titus!). Because the author of Hebrews makes such extensive reference to temple worship rituals it is hard to imagine it being written after 70 AD without any mention of the destruction.



## SO WHO WROTE HEBREWS?

Only God knows who wrote Hebrews! But God *does know* and God sovereignly saw to it that it became a part of the Bible we use today.

## OBSERVE the TEXT of SCRIPTURE

**READ** Hebrews 11 and mark every occurrence of the word “faith.” As you read, also watch for other repeated words or word groups.

### Hebrews 11

- 1 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*
- 2 *For by it the men of old gained approval.*
- 3 *By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.*
- 4 *By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.*
- 5 *By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.*
- 6 *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*
- 7 *By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*
- 8 *By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.*
- 9 *By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise;*

## FYI:

### Three Dates You Need to Know

There are only three critical dates to know as you begin to build your knowledge of the biblical story line. Honest! I'm not going to bait and switch or add others later. Not only that, we're going to review these throughout the course, so you can relax. Next time you see these dates in a sidebar, they will be a little more familiar and by the time we're done, they'll be old friends.

**722 BC** - In this year, the Northern Kingdom of Israel was conquered by Assyria. Don't know much about Assyria? The capital is associated with a famous fish story.

**586 BC** - This is the year that Jerusalem, the capital of the Southern Kingdom, falls to Babylon.

**70 AD** - Titus destroys both the temple and Jerusalem in this year. Hebrews was most likely written prior to this event.



## FYI:

### BC and AD

B.C. = Before Christ. Those not so inclined to Jesus sometimes use B.C.E. meaning Before the Common Era (i.e. Before Christ).

A.D. = *Anno Domini*, Latin for "In the year of our Lord."

**FYI:****Sophisticated Greek**

The New Testament of the Bible was written in the common language of the day, Koine Greek, *koinē* being the Greek word for common. Hebrews, while still written in the common language, ranks as a very sophisticated piece of writing. This distinct writing style is one fact pointing against Pauline authorship.

- 10 *for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.*
- 11 *By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.*
- 12 *Therefore there was born even of one man, and him as good as dead at that, as many descendants as the stars of heaven in number, and innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.*
- 13 *All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.*
- 14 *For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.*
- 15 *And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return.*
- 16 *But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.*
- 17 *By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son;*
- 18 *it was he to whom it was said, "In Isaac your descendants shall be called."*
- 19 *He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.*
- 20 *By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come.*
- 21 *By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.*
- 22 *By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.*
- 23 *By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's edict.*
- 24 *By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,*
- 25 *choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,*
- 26 *considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.*
- 27 *By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured, as seeing Him who is unseen.*

- 28 *By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood, so that he who destroyed the firstborn would not touch them.*
- 29 *By faith they passed through the Red Sea as though they were passing through dry land; and the Egyptians, when they attempted it, were drowned.*
- 30 *By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.*
- 31 *By faith Rahab the harlot did not perish along with those who were disobedient, after she had welcomed the spies in peace.*
- 32 *And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,*
- 33 *who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,*
- 34 *quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.*
- 35 *Women received back their dead by resurrection; and others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that they might obtain a better resurrection;*
- 36 *and others experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains and imprisonment.*
- 37 *They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated*
- 38 *(men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.*
- 39 *And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised,*
- 40 *because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect.*

**DISCUSS with your GROUP or PONDER on your own . . .**

What is the main theme of this chapter?

**FYI:**

**Key People & Events**

Key People	Key Events
	Creation
Abel	
Enoch	
Noah	Flood

**ONE STEP FURTHER:**

**It's Greek to me!**

Tired of relying on someone else to transliterate Greek words for you? Why not learn the Greek alphabet as you study Hebrews 11? If you studied *Sweeter than Chocolate!* and learned the Hebrew alphabet, you'll find Greek to be much easier, unless of course you're a native Hebrew speaker. As one of my favorite Greek profs always told his classes, "Greek is a very regular language!" Just think about it this week. Next week we take the plunge.

## FYI:

### Who done it?

Who doesn't love a good mystery? Of course, mysteries surrounding the Bible can have an unsettling effect if we're not careful about our thinking. Take Hebrews for instance. This letter was included in the canon of the Bible on the basis of Pauline authorship. If Paul did not write Hebrews, and most modern scholars agree he did not, what do we make of that?

Here's what I do: I trust that my God who is sovereign over the writing of Scripture is also sovereign over canonization, the process by which all of the books of the Bible were stirred together to make the Bible. Yes, from a human standpoint it may have been included on wrong grounds, but God is sovereign even over that.

So who are some of the possible culprits?

Here they are in no particular order:

- Paul
- Barnabbus
- Apollos
- Priscilla, with or without Aquilla
- Luke
- Silas
- Clement of Rome

What initial observations can you make from a first read-through of Hebrews 11?

Based on a cursory look at Hebrews 11, what is faith? How does it act? What consequences can it have?

Where else does it show up in this chapter and how is it translated?

## Digging Deeper

### What does it mean to gain God's approval?

Being able to read the Bible in English is a gift! We do, however, miss some of the nuances of the original languages if we don't set out to dig. If you're up for digging a little deeper this week, take some time investigating what it means to gain God's approval. In the NASB we find this phrasing appearing in Hebrews 11:2 and 11:39, but the Greek word actually shows up four times in the first five verses. As you investigate, you'll also want to watch for the noun form of the word that frames Hebrews 11 showing up in Hebrews 10:28 and Hebrews 12:1.

What is the original word for "gained approval" in Hebrews 11:2? What part of speech is it?

What related word appears in Hebrews 10:28 and Hebrews 12:1? What part of speech is it?

How else are these words used in the book of Hebrews? In the rest of the New Testament?

According to the author of Hebrews, how does one gain God's approval?

Is there anything in your thinking or behavior that needs to be realigned based on this truth?

**For non-digital natives . . .**

**If you're using blueletterbible.org you can take the following steps:**

1. Type in Hebrews 11:2. Change the version to NASB. Click the "Search" button.
2. When you arrive at the next screen, you will see six lettered boxes to the left of Hebrews 11:2.  
  
Click the "C" button to take you to the concordance link.

## ONE STEP FURTHER:

### **Make your case!**

If you're looking for a real challenge this week, spend some time investigating the possible authors of the book of Hebrews. Make your case for who you think wrote it and why!

## TRUE STORIES:

### **Creation, Abel, Enoch, Noah**

Here's where you can find the main stories:

Creation - Genesis 1-2

Abel - Genesis 4

Enoch - Genesis 5:18-24

Noah - Genesis 6-10

To find other references to Abel, Enoch, or Noah try using an online concordance at [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org). Just go to the web address and type in the Abel, Enoch, or Noah as your search term! Amazing! It is always helpful to see the Bible's commentary on itself and a concordance is a great resource for doing that.

## FYI:

### Asking questions of the text

The key to exegesis (that's the fancy word meaning to draw meaning out of Scripture) is asking questions of the text. The basic investigative questions Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? will be your framework. Not every question can be addressed to every verse, and some verses require several variations on the same question. Although we're only focusing on one chapter of Hebrews, realize that we will not exhaust all of the questions that can be asked of the text. Don't let that stop you from asking other questions and exploring further on your own. We will never run out of questions to ask and answers to glean from God's Word! And that's good news!! There will always be more to find, to discover, and to apply and live out!

3. Click on the Strong's number, in this case 3140, which is the link to the original word in Greek.

Clicking this number will bring up another screen that will give you a brief definition of the word as well as list every occurrence of that particular Greek word in the New Testament. Before running to the dictionary definition, scan places where this word is used in Scripture. Examine the general contexts where it is used.

## OBSERVE the TEXT of SCRIPTURE

**READ** Hebrews 11:1-7 and mark the name of every person that occurs in the text. Also mark any words that refer to sight or seeing.

### CREATION, ABEL, ENOCH, NOAH

#### *Hebrews 11:1-7*

- 1 *Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*
- 2 *For by it the men of old gained approval.*
- 3 *By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.*
- 4 *By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks.*
- 5 *By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; AND HE WAS NOT FOUND BECAUSE GOD TOOK HIM UP; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God.*
- 6 *And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.*
- 7 *By faith Noah, being warned by God about things not yet seen, in reverence prepared an ark for the salvation of his household, by which he condemned the world, and became an heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*

**DISCUSS with your GROUP or PONDER on your own . . .**

How does the author of Hebrews define faith?

What is the first event referred to in this chapter? How does the author tell us that the things we see came into being? What evidence does He give?

How are do we accept this as true?

While there are certainly scientific evidences for creationism and holes in the theory of evolution we know that God created *ex nihilo* (that's theological Latin for "out of nothing") on the basis of faith. Can you rest in this fact? Why or why not?

## ABEL

What does the text tell us about the story of Abel?

### FYI:

#### **Keep your brothers straight!**

Ever get Cain and Abel mixed up? I don't. It's not because I have a great memory, it's because I have a little, inaccurate poem that my Dad was taught years ago in Sunday School.

*Cain killed Abel with the leg of a table.*

Remember, I told you it was inaccurate! I doubt there was a table leg involved, but the saying will help you keep from getting Cain and Abel mixed up!

## ONE STEP FURTHER:

### Word Study: Pleasing

If you have some extra time and/or energy this week, check out the following Greek words related to being pleasing: *euaresteo* / *euarestos*; *aresko* / *arestos*. The first in each set of words is the verb form, the second the noun. Record what you learn below.

Remember, Hebrews 11 gives us the summary version. We're going to look a little closer at this account in Genesis 4:1-16. What was the rest of Cain and Abel's story?

Much has been made over the years about why Abel's offering was accepted and Cain's rejected. How does the author of Hebrews explain the acceptance of Abel's sacrifice?

How was Abel's sacrifice offered? (This is not a trick question. Go for the obvious answer!)

What tie does the author make between faith and righteousness? Can you think of other places in Scripture where you've seen this connection? If so, record them below.

## ENOCH

Okay, I probably shouldn't tip my hand here, but Enoch is one of my favorites in the Bible! So, if you're trying to do this lesson while at all groggy, go get a cup of coffee! This guy rocks!

What does Hebrews tell us about Enoch?



Let's take a look Enoch's story in Genesis 5:18-24 to find out why he was so pleasing to God. When you've read the account, record your findings.

What does Genesis 5:24 tell us about Enoch and God's relationship? What is the commentary of Hebrews on this event?

According to Hebrews 11:6, how can we please God? What does it involve?

How do you try to please God? Take some time to think about this before answering. Some introspection may change your answer.

Is your "God-activity" more characterized as walking by faith or striving in your flesh? Explain.

Spend some time in prayer before God talking with Him about this and asking Him to help you to walk more and more by faith alone. Record any additional thoughts below.

## NOAH

What does Hebrews 11 say about Noah?

If you have time to read the entire account of Noah in Genesis 6 through 10, that would be wonderful! If not, read at least Genesis 6:9-22. What did Noah and Enoch have in common?

Was Noah called righteous before building the ark or on account of building the ark? Cite your reference.

We are inclined to think of Noah's big deal as ark building, and make no mistake, it was a big deal. But the bigger deal leading to the ark opportunity was that Noah, like Enoch, walked with God. God called him to build an ark as a result of the faith that he had already shown in God.

Take some time to consider how you could be more intentional about walking with God moment by moment. Record your thoughts below.

# Digging Deeper

## Looking at the “Sight” words

Throughout Hebrews 11, the author uses a variety of “sight” words. If you have time this week, do some further investigation into these words and record your findings below.

How often are words related to “sight” or “seeing” used in this chapter and where are they used?

According to Hebrews 11, how are faith and sight related?

What in your life is hard to believe because you cannot see it? What action is hard to take because of limited visibility? How can the teaching of this chapter inform your actions?

## ONE STEP FURTHER:

### **The No-Guilt Pre-Test**

Can you remember back to grade school? The pre-test was always the one you took at the beginning of the week and the grade didn't count. You took the test so you could see your progress. You'd start the week not knowing half of the spelling words, but by Friday afternoon, while you may not have known them all, you usually knew considerably more. Take a few minutes and list to the best of your ability the major characters that you know from the story line of the Bible. Consider Hebrews 11 as your cheat sheet and see how well you can do in constructing a list of the major characters throughout the text of Scripture. Go!

## @ THE END OF THE DAY . . .

Based on what you have learned this week, how are you doing at living a life of faith?

One question we will return to throughout this study has to do with walking when we can't see clearly. After all, faith is the assurance of things hoped for the conviction of things not seen. Where in your life is the path lit for the next step only? Where is God calling you to walk toward that which is unseen? You may not have a clear answer now. If not, don't force an answer, but do keep the question in mind. Tell you what, I'll remind you of it as we continue on!

As you close out your study this week, take some quiet time (perhaps 30 minutes to an hour) to simply take a walk with God. When you finish, write down any new thoughts God brings to your mind from His Word.