

OPENING

A History of FAITH FOR NURSING

NATIONAL
NURSES
MONTH
CELEBRATION 2023



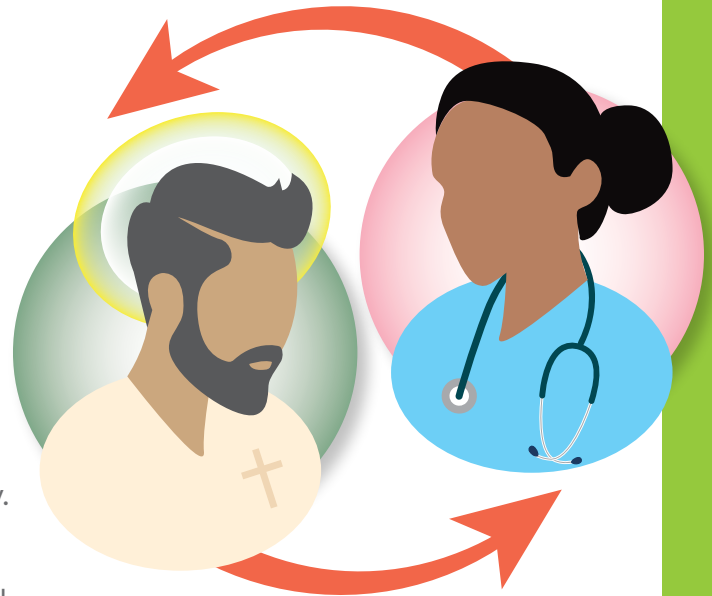
The New Testament book of Hebrews was written to everyone wrestling with faith. According to this letter in the Bible, Jesus is greater than all others who came before him and all other claims to truth. Hebrews makes it clear that **faith is crucial to our relationship with God.**

Relationship is what Jesus longs for with each of us. Yet our relationship with Jesus can become distorted. The stress, hurt, grief, disappointment, and loss we've experienced create relationship disconnects. We may believe we aren't worthy of God's love or time, we've made too many mistakes, or fear our mistakes have caused Jesus to turn away. Sometimes we focus on following the rules we've been told are a part of faith but have nothing to do with relationship. Or, the demands of nursing school, 12-hour shifts, and care of others leave us little time for pursuing relationships. We feel numb, angry, bitter, or just empty.

Hebrews shows us Jesus is the ultimate and perfect expression of God's plan for us and for salvation. Chapter 11 clarifies the meaning of "faith," portrays of Old Testament examples of faith, and reminds readers of the Passover—the celebration of God's mercy for his people during a time of persecution (see Exodus 12:21-32).

The examples in Hebrews 11 create a solid foundation for answering questions like: **How, as followers of Jesus, do we stay faithful? How do we continue in faith when we are discouraged? Do we have the right perception of what faith is in the Christian life? Is faith a part of our practice as students, nurses, and educators?** The answers help us hold fast to the gospel and believe Jesus wants relationship with us, despite hardships.

Hebrews 11, the "Hall of Faith," offers encouragement wherever we are in our personal lives and nursing practice. It's a chapter filled with the stories of men and women who are a part of our spiritual lineage. Their history is part of our history.



PREPARE: Scripture is inspired by God (II Timothy 3:15). As you read this living book, avoid reading it from a third-person perspective, from the outside looking in. Scripture is meant to be read from the first person – this is *our story!*

Move through the 5 parts of this study at your own pace; use "MY NOTES" at the end for your reflections. Study on your own, with a friend, or in a small group. If you want to connect with others, [find an NCF group.](#)

As you study Hebrews 11, ask God to speak his truth to you and answer your questions. Ask to see past the hurts, disappointments, shame, anger, fear, exhaustion, or grief that may be in your life. Pray as you move through the study for God to use his Word to bring healing and draw you into deeper intimacy with Jesus.



WHAT IS FAITH? Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-10

Read Hebrews 11:1-40. Note each time you read the word “faith.” Read again and focus on verses:

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible... By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land... For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

DIG DEEPER

- How is biblical faith defined in these verses? How are the elements of faith broken down?
- Name some of the challenges experienced by the men and women described in this chapter.
- What examples in these lives of faith stand out to you? Why?
- What are things you believe by faith that you do not yet “see?” For example, see John 3:16-17, John 8:12, 31; Romans 8:1-2; Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 13:5-6.

LIFE APPLICATION

- Where have you stepped out in faith, perhaps to go to nursing school or into a nursing role – not knowing where you are going?
- Where do you want God to meet you right now? Stop and ask him for the guidance you desire.
- How does your experience of faith and relationship with God affect your relationship with your patients? With your colleagues?
- Nurses understand caring from a whole-person perspective — physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual. What do you hope for in each of these areas of your life? Talk to God about these hopes.



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FAITH LIVED OUT **Hebrews 11:6-7**

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household.

By this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

**MISSION
IMPOSSIBLE**

DIG DEEPER

- What do these verses indicate is needed to be close to God?
- What impossible things did God do through the life of Noah and others in this chapter?
- How were obedience and faith tied together in the lives of these ordinary individuals?
- In what ways did God reward these men and women? How does God reward those who seek him today?

LIFE APPLICATION

- How does God provide for you to draw near him today?
- Think about an impossible situation in your life or nursing work right now. Talk to God about this. Ponder what God might want from you in this situation. How will you respond?
- In what ways can simple acts of your nursing care offer an eternal perspective of faith and hope to your patients or colleagues?
- What could be some “rewards” we witness in nursing?

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PART 3

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SEEKING A HOMETLAND

Hebrews 11:13-16; Ephesians 2:19

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. 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 for them a city.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

DIG DEEPER

- What was the “promise” and the “homeland” the people of faith in Hebrews 11 were seeking?
- Why was God proud of these men and women of faith?
- What difference does it make for you to be a fellow citizen with Christ-followers today?

LIFE APPLICATION

- Are there times in nursing school or at work that you feel like a stranger or exile? Describe those times.
- What are things you could do to experience relationship with believing nursing students or nurses?
- How does knowing that Jesus has saved you now and for eternity impact the daily challenges you experience in school or nursing?
- How does this eternal perspective affect your interactions with patients?

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LIVING SACRIFICES

Hebrews 11:17-19

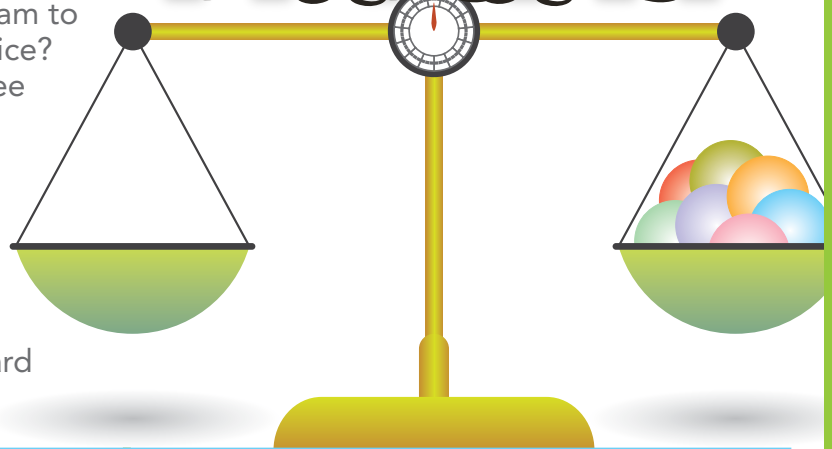
By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.

DIG DEEPER

- Why do you think God asked Abraham to kill his promised son in a ritual sacrifice? What did this act represent? (Also see Romans 4:13-25.)
- What did God accomplish through Abraham's obedience?
- Why did Moses give up wealth and being a prince to become a fugitive wandering in the wilderness (see verses 23-28)? What is the reward Moses anticipated?
- What did God achieve through Moses' sacrifice?

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FAITH



LIFE APPLICATION

- Have you experienced God asking you to give up something of great value, or is God asking you to "sacrifice" something now? Reflect on that experience.
- How are you seeing God work in your life in relation to this situation?
- What might it look like to receive back what you gave up?
- Are there sacrifices you make in your nursing work? Name those areas and what you give up. What might God be accomplishing through your sacrifices?



RELATIONSHIP

Hebrews 11:32-40

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight... And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.



LIFE APPLICATION

- Why and how is relationship important in your faith in God?
- What practical steps can you take to experience deeper relationship with God in your life and nursing practice?
- Are there areas in your nursing where you feel weak? Name these and ask God to show you his strength (also see 1 Corinthians 12:9-10).
- How could relationships with other believing students or nurses impact the challenges you experience in school or your nursing practice?

DIG DEEPER

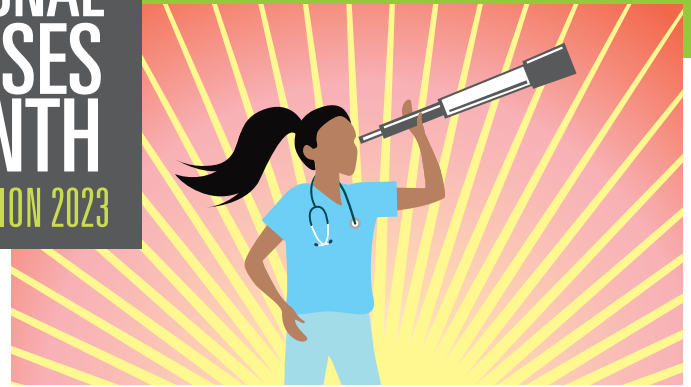
- What things do you see about relationship with God in the lives of the men and women of faith in Hebrews 11?
- How did relationship with God carry these people through hardship?
- What does “something better” refer to?
- How are Christ-followers today made perfect?

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CLOSING

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LEARN MORE

Explore the stories of the men and women in Hebrews 11 – individuals like us who faced challenges, struggled, and made mistakes – yet kept their faith to experience a relationship with God that sustained them and provided hope.

ABEL	Genesis 4:1-5
ENOCH	Genesis 5:18-24
NOAH	Genesis 6-9
ABRAHAM	Genesis 11-25
SARAH	Genesis 11-23
ISAAC	Genesis 21-28, 35
JACOB	Genesis 25-35, 37, 46-49
JOSEPH	Genesis 37, 39-50
MOSES	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
RAHAB	Joshua 2, 6
GIDEON	Judges 6-8
BARAK	Judges 4-5
SAMSON	Judges 13-16
JEPHTHAH	Judges 11-12
SAMUEL	1 Samuel 1-13, 15-16, 25
DAVID	1 Samuel 16-31, 2 Samuel 1-24, 1 Kings 1-2; Psalms

LOOKING AHEAD

As you reflect on Hebrews 11, know that you are not alone in your faith and nursing journey. Nurses Christian Fellowship exists for you. Our vision is to see students and nurses know and follow Jesus in nursing. NCF's history of faith is made up of nurses who sacrificed to support others in the nursing profession. Be a part of a community where support and encouragement are possible as we remind each other of the reality of our relationship with Jesus. Use the links below to connect with NCF!



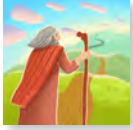
MY NOTES

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PART 1



PART 2



PART 3



MY NOTES

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InterVarsity
NURSES CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

PART 4



PART 5