



# STUDY QUESTIONS FOR **MARCH 1**

## Series: *By Faith*

*Faith of Strangers and Exiles (Hebrews 11:13-16)*

### Icebreakers!

1. What's your hometown? What's something that it's known for?
2. On a scale from 1-10, how much hometown pride do you have? Why so high, or low?

### Digging Deeper

3. **Study Hebrews 11:13-16 on the back of this page.** What do you lose in calling yourself a "stranger and exile on the earth"? What were they willing to give that up for? Can we gain these things *without also* considering ourselves "strangers and exiles" here?
4. **Read Genesis 23:1-9.** How did Abraham describe himself to the Hittites that he lived among (v4)? What did they think of him (v6)? Why did Abraham insist on paying full price for a place to bury Sarah (v9)? Did he accept their offer to be "one of them"?
5. **Read Exodus 3:1-6.** How does God describe Himself to Moses (v6)? Why is it important that God is willing to be known by His connection with these three names?
6. **Read Joshua 24:14-18.** How did Joshua reject the cultures "beyond the River" (where Abram began) and in Egypt (where Moses began)? How must God's people stand in contrast to any culture apart from Him in this world?
7. **Read Jeremiah 29:1-11.** Why should God's people seek the welfare of cultures and countries where we live as exiles? How do we do the same in our country and culture?
8. **Read Ephesians 2:11-19.** How does Paul use "strangers" and "alien" language here? What has turned us into fellow citizens with the saints now?
9. **Read 1 Peter 2:11-12.** As sojourners and exiles, how must we be different from the Gentiles / nations / peoples around us? What benefit comes from such a commitment?
10. What did you hear in the message this Sunday that stood out to you?  
Is there anything you would emphasize, add, or change?

### Application

11. How is our heavenly homeland *so much greater* than any comfort here on earth?
12. How must our love for home in heaven turn us into strangers and exiles here?

## Hebrews 11:13-16 (ESV)

**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**.