



STUDY QUESTIONS FOR **FEBRUARY 15**

Series: *By Faith*

Faith before Abraham (Hebrews 11:4-7)

Icebreakers!

1. Who are the people in the Old Testament that you're **POSITIVE** you would see in heaven one day? Are there any where you'd only say ... *maybe*?
2. What's important for us to believe about God in order to please Him?

Digging Deeper

3. **Study Hebrews 11:4-7 on the back of this page.** Why does the author choose these three people? Why would most of us be confident that these three are saved based on how the Bible "commends" them?
4. **Read Genesis 4:1-5.** If Genesis doesn't explain why Abel's sacrifice was accepted and Cain's wasn't, how is the author of Hebrews so sure?
5. **Read Genesis 5:21-24.** Genesis doesn't offer much detail besides "Enoch walked with God." How does the author of Hebrews fill in what this looked like?
6. **Read Genesis 6:9-22.** What phrase gets reused between Enoch and Noah (verse 9)? How do we see that Noah had faith in God?
7. **Read Psalm 14:2-3.** Can people seek after God anymore? Were Abel, Enoch, and Noah anomalies – or is it possible that others might seek after Him as they did?
8. **Read Acts 17:26-28.** How does verse 27 describe how the nations would seek God? How is Paul helping the nations with their search in the setting of this passage?
9. **Read James 4:8.** What's promised if we will draw near to God? Is this about unbelievers being saved, or about Christians restoring their relationship with God? Can it be both?
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 do your daily actions reveal what you believe about God?
12. What does it look like to *seek God diligently*, trusting that that's what He rewards?

Hebrews 11:4-7 (ESV)

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**. (11:1-2)

By faith Abel

offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain,
through which he was **commended** as **righteous**,
God **commending** him by accepting his gifts.

And **through his faith**,
though he died,
he still speaks.

By faith Enoch

was taken up so that he should not see death,
and he was not found, because God had taken him.

Now *before* he was taken he was **commended** as having **pleased** God.

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**.

