

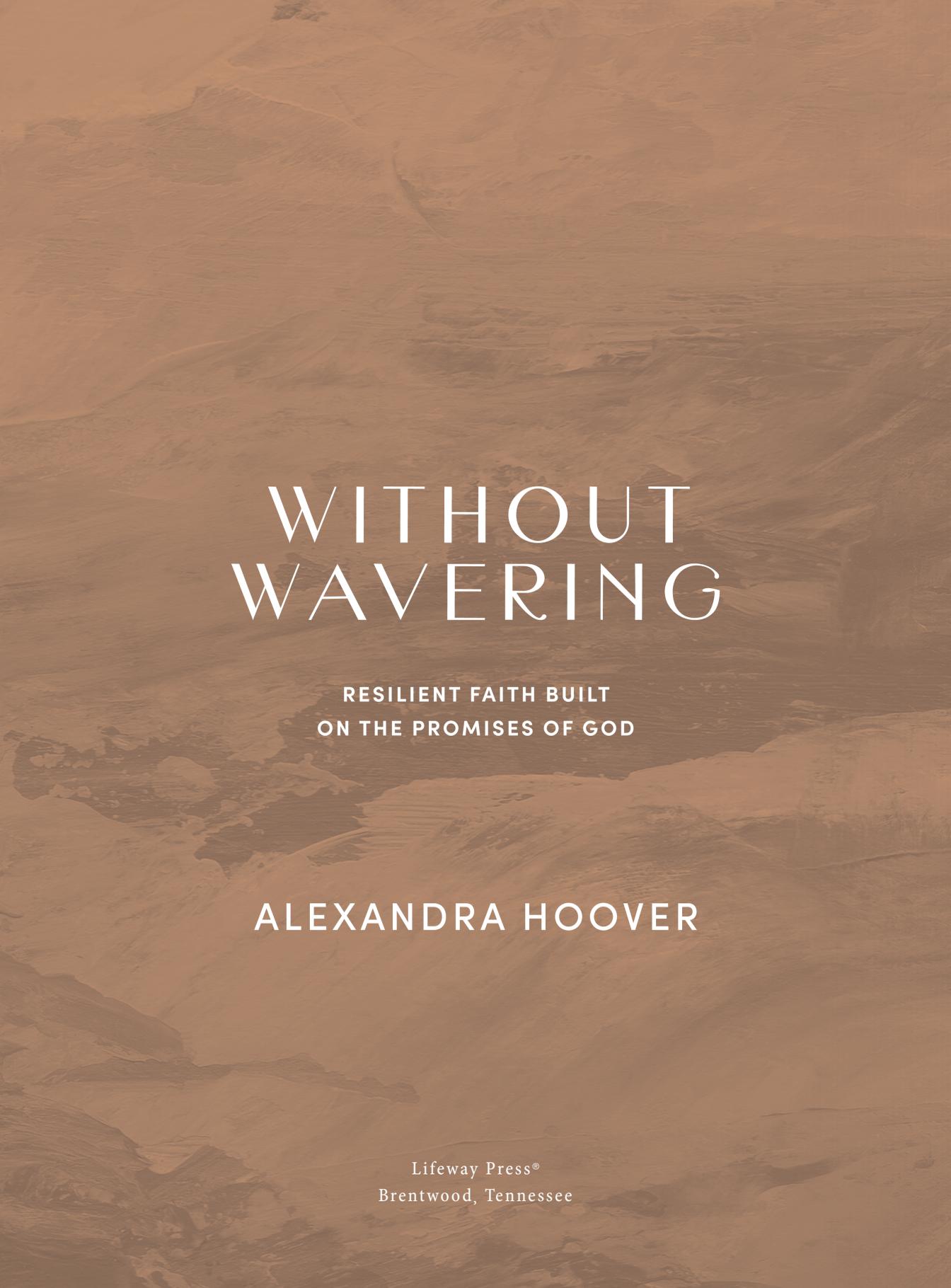
7-SESSION BIBLE STUDY

VIDEO  
ACCESS  
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# WITHOUT WAVERING

RESILIENT FAITH BUILT  
ON THE PROMISES OF GOD

ALEXANDRA HOOVER

An aerial photograph of a vast desert landscape, showing rolling sand dunes and a winding river or dry creek bed. The entire image is in a monochromatic, warm brown/orange color palette. The text is centered and overlaid on the image.

# WITHOUT WAVERING

RESILIENT FAITH BUILT  
ON THE PROMISES OF GOD

ALEXANDRA HOOVER

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Brentwood, Tennessee

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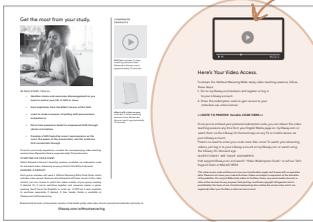
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# how to use this study



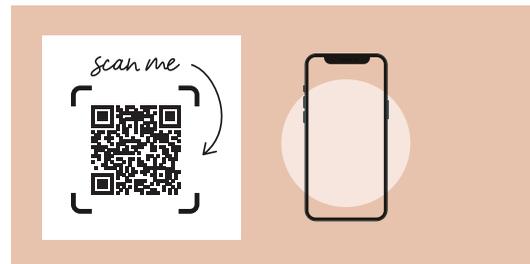
**PERSONAL STUDY** Each week you'll have five days of personal study with the last day as a reflection day. After you finish a week, be sure to watch the video. The first session is video only.

**VIDEO VIEWER GUIDE** Each session of *Without Wavering* ends with a teaching video from Alexandra. The Viewer Guide page provides you with a place to take notes from the video teachings and from your small group discussion time. You'll want to begin your study by watching the Session One video and taking notes on page 10.

**VIDEO ACCESS** With the purchase of this book, you have access to videos from Alexandra that provide insight to help you better understand and apply what you study. **You'll find detailed information on how to access the teaching videos on the card inserted in the back of your Bible study book.**

**LEADING A GROUP?** A free leader guide PDF is available for download at [lifeway.com/withoutwavering](http://lifeway.com/withoutwavering). The leader guide offers several tips and helps along with discussion guides for each week.

**A NOTE ABOUT BIBLE TRANSLATIONS** This Bible study pulls from a variety of Bible translations, the primary one being the New International Version (NIV). All other translations will be marked by their abbreviations. You can read from any of these translations and more at [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) or on a Bible app. The names of the Bible books will be abbreviated when referenced in parentheses in this study. For a complete list of book abbreviations, download the chart available at [lifeway.com/withoutwavering](http://lifeway.com/withoutwavering).



## about the author

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**ALEXANDRA HOOVER** is a wife, mother of three, daughter, Bible teacher, speaker, and bestselling author of *Eyes Up: How to Trust God's Heart by Tracing His Hand*. She's passionate about communicating the gospel's beauty and hope, whether through writing or speaking, online or in person. She aims for her words to spur people on to two things—knowing who God is and knowing who they are in Him. Alexandra has the privilege of serving on staff at Transformation Church and spends her days loving on her family, dancing with her kids, and living on mission right where God has her.

## A WORD FROM THE AUTHOR

Dear friend, I'm so glad you're here. No matter how you arrived, or who handed you this study, or what made you say yes, what matters is that you're here, and that is no mistake.

The concept of faith used to feel mythical, almost fictitious, to me. Like a concept you'd hear about in your favorite fairytale. Before I knew Jesus, it felt more like a make-believe disposition. *Just have faith; God's in control.* I'm sure you've heard that before. Once I became a follower of Jesus, I knew faith was about something more, something deeper, but it was still so difficult for me to grasp.

*Blind faith* is the term that played over and over in my mind as I took steps to know and trust God. I've not always been the most trusting person; people have let me down so many times that it's hard to put my trust in anyone else. The thought of blind faith felt absolutely too costly and too terrifying. I struggled to have faith and trust in God even though I knew Him to be good. Maybe you can relate.

When the storms of life—and there are many—knock you down, and you look up from the ground to find yourself in a world of disarray, perhaps the words *I just can't keep doing this* rise up in you. What happens when the prayer goes unanswered? When your soul is so worn that the thought of getting back into the deep blue sea of life feels impossible? You know it's only a matter of time before those waves crash again. What holds you up when everything else has let you down? The only sustaining answer is this: *You hold onto the faith and hope you have in Jesus.*

I'm not sure what season of life you're in or what your relationship with Jesus looks like today, but learning how to look to Him, to stay resiliently focused on Him, is what this study is all about. We'll begin with the question, *What actually is faith?* And then we'll consider how we build up a resilient faith, one that's unwavering regardless of our circumstances or challenges. How can we be women who live from this firm foundation in certainty and confidence?

When I began writing this study, I thought about you, the woman who, whether experienced in the faith or just getting started, needs a firm anchor and framework of a strong faith to work from.

The heart of the study is beautifully encompassed in Hebrews 10:23 (CSB),

Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without  
wavering, since he who promised is faithful.

Throughout this Bible study, we'll spend a lot of time studying Hebrews 10–12 and the writer's many examples of unwavering faith. We'll also consider the early church, Paul, and concepts like spiritual rhythms and God's promise-keeping nature to help us understand what faith in action looks like.

When we truly believe that He who promised is faithful, then we can respond with a faith that is built up with resilience and perseverance, a faith without wavering because we know that God is going to finish His good work (Phil. 1:6). My hope and prayer for you in this study is that you walk away with key principles, truths, and promises to help form your faith, strengthen your relationship with Jesus, and equip you for this beautiful life we've been given to steward.

### **THIS IS FOR YOU**

*For tired eyes that seek perseverance.*

*For learning to love ourselves as God loves us.*

*For embracing this season and all its nuance.*

*For calling out courage and bravery.*

*For learning to serve without applause.*

*For learning to keep a steady gaze on Jesus.*

*For hope and peace.*

*For learning to pick ourselves back up.*

*For being honest and vulnerable about our lack.*

*For the gift of embracing each new battle scar.*

*For allowing God to hold us and grace to carry us.*

*For layers being pulled back so that new things can become.*

*For a faith without wavering, found only in Christ.*

- Alexandra

SESSION 01

*Introduction*  
THIS IS FOR YOU



# Session One

## Video Viewer Guide

THIS IS FOR YOU



**WATCH** the Session One video and take notes below.

### GROUP DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

*A leader guide is available for download at [lifeway.com/withoutwaving](http://lifeway.com/withoutwaving)*

1. If you were to attempt to define faith in God, especially to someone who doesn't have a relationship with Him, how would you explain it?
2. What is one word you would use to describe the current state of your relationship with God?
3. Read the "This Is for You" manifesto (p. 7). Which of these statements resonate with you as you begin this study?
4. What are some hindrances, distractions, or obstacles you might face in being able to complete the personal study each week? If you're a Bible study veteran, what tips would you offer on how to stay the course in our study?
5. What is one way you want to ask God to work in you through this study?



LET US HOLD ON  
TO THE CONFESSION  
OF OUR HOPE  
WITHOUT  
WAVERING,  
SINCE HE  
WHO PROMISED  
IS FAITHFUL.

HEBREWS 10:23 (CSB)

SESSION 02

*The Key to*  
UNWAVERING  
FAITH







What is *faith*, let alone a faith that is “without wavering” (Heb. 10:23, CSB)? This is where we begin our study. In this week’s session, we’ll not only become familiar with the definition of *faith*, but we’ll also begin to wrestle with what it means for followers of Jesus to truly live *by faith*. We’ll spend our time in Hebrews 11 and the list of Bible figures whose examples help us understand what faith looked like for them. Most importantly, we’re reminded that Jesus—the promised One hinted at throughout the Old Testament—is the One on whom our faith and hope ultimately rests. What we’ll read this week is inspiring, and I hope it encourages you as much as it’s encouraged me.

**SESSION 02 MEMORY VERSES**

The LORD makes firm  
the steps of the one who  
delights in him; though he  
may stumble, he will not  
fall, for the LORD upholds  
him with his hand.

PSALM 37:23-24



# WHAT WE MEAN WHEN WE TALK *about Faith*

I didn't grow up a church girl, or a faith girl, or a God girl. I guess you can say that I knew of God—I'd heard other people talk about Him—but that was it. Every summer as a little girl I traveled to Venezuela to stay with an aunt and uncle. I looked forward to it every year; it was a time to go back to my other home. Rest and peace awaited. One particular summer, though, was notably different. I was around thirteen or fourteen and was a deeply inquisitive teenager with lots of questions about life—and God.

My cousin attended a private Catholic school with a community of people who also attended the Catholic church just down the road from my aunt and uncle's home. That summer I spent more time in a church than ever before. My cousin was attending classes for her confirmation, which is one of the seven sacraments of the Roman Catholic faith and one of the steps to becoming a part of the Roman Catholic Church. And so, I tagged along to many of her classes.

The priest seemed like the right person to take my questions to, so that's exactly what I did! First item on my list to address? The creation account. I know, super light conversation. My following questions surrounding doubt, suffering, and the circumstances of life challenged every word that came out of his mouth. *What if God isn't the God over all? What if He isn't kind or good? What if Jesus didn't rise from the dead?* My brown hair and hands moved all around as I questioned his beliefs and faith.

Instead of dismissing me or explaining God away, the priest welcomed my curiosity. He smiled and smirked, willing to listen to a young girl who was taking her first steps toward a relationship with God. That is the summer when my journey toward Jesus began, and it's been a wild ride ever since.

**What do you consider to be the beginning of your faith journey, like my summer in Venezuela? What questions do you remember having, and who played an important role in that moment or season?**

## **FAITH DEFINED**

This is a Bible study about building a resilient, sturdy faith in God, so I want to make sure we begin with a solid understanding of what we mean when we talk about “faith.”

**Look up FAITH in an online dictionary. List the top two definitions that show up.**

1.

2.

**READ HEBREWS 11:1-3. Write down the description of faith given in verse 1.**

**How does this description of faith compare with what you found online?**

I mentioned in the introduction that we will spend a lot of time in Hebrews 10–12. That’s because these chapters contain valuable insight into how God wants us to understand a life of faith in Him. The book of Hebrews defines faith as “the reality [or assurance] of what is hoped for, the proof [or conviction] of what is not seen” (11:1, CSB). (For more on this, check out the Further Study on p. 21.) Here’s an explanation of this verse that I find helpful:

Faith is not merely holding to certain teachings, such as that God exists, but rather it is a strong conviction that the world around us is part of a greater plan, God’s plan. Faith means that although at times the world looks chaotic and uncontrolled, we feel deep down that this chaotic world is not where we truly live. Rather, our existences are guided by God’s strength and power.<sup>1</sup>

The description of faith in Hebrews 11:1 is part of a wider theme in Hebrews—an invitation to see how the things in the world around us are best understood through the bigger picture of God’s story, a story that began with creation and culminates in Jesus. In fact, this is where the whole book begins.

**READ HEBREWS 1:1-3a, printed below. As you read the verses, circle each word that describes who Jesus (the “Son”) is. Underline each word or phrase that describes what Jesus does or has done.**

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

**HEBREWS 1:1-3a (ESV)**

It’s all about Jesus! He is the One we latch our faith and hope onto. The New Testament suggests that faith and hope go hand in hand for the follower of Jesus. Our faith is the reality of our hope in Christ; it’s “the *proof* that what we believe is *real*, as well as the *certainty* that our *hopes* will become actualized in heaven.”<sup>2</sup> The heartbeat to the book of Hebrews is having a faith anchored and built up in Christ and Christ alone.

**OUR FAITH  
IS THE  
REALITY  
OF OUR  
HOPE IN  
CHRIST.**

**READ BACK OVER HEBREWS 11:1-3 ONE MORE TIME. Now I want you to write your own definition of faith, keeping in mind what you've studied today. How would you define it to someone who has no religious upbringing, like teenager me?**

When I think about the definition of *faith*, it's like the foundation of a sturdy house or the active ingredient that makes the recipe work. It's the quiet yet bold something that whispers hope and light in the midst of so much dark. Faith is what moves us to believe and to see, even when we can't make sense of it. It's like the breeze you feel on a spring day or the oxygen we inhale with every breath. We can't see it, but it's there.

*FAITH  
IS WHAT  
MOVES US  
TO BELIEVE  
AND TO SEE,  
EVEN WHEN  
WE CAN'T  
MAKE SENSE  
OF IT.*

When I read Hebrews 11:1-3, I see an invitation to live out my faith based on the reality of the hope I have that Jesus lived and died for me, that He conquered death so I can spend eternity with Him, and that He will do as He said and return and right all wrongs. This is the good news, the gospel, Jesus's life, death, and resurrection as the sacrifice and atonement for all our sins (Rom. 1:3-4). Jesus is the Perfecter, the One who was, and is, and is to come (Rev. 1:4).

As we walk through the rest of this study together, may we remember that our faith is a gift! God is the Creator and Giver of it (Eph. 2:8-10). We don't have to will our way to a more resilient faith; we couldn't if we tried. One key to an unwavering faith in Jesus is surrendering each day, each moment, to Him. It's believing in His promises and allowing Him to use you for the good works He has planned.

**Before you close today, spend time in prayer. Thank God for the gift that is your faith and for Jesus, the One in whom your faith is secure. Ask God to spend these next six sessions strengthening your faith in Him.**

## FURTHER STUDY

Read the Bible for long and you'll realize the term *faith* is used many times (more than two hundred in the New Testament alone!). With this many uses, it can be hard to wrap our minds around a clear understanding of what this concept means for the Christian. The following description from the *Holman Bible Dictionary* helps us lay a good foundation for what we mean when we talk about faith.

“The Greek noun, *pistis* (faith), is related to the verb *pisteuo* (I have faith, trust, believe). . . . In the New Testament faith is used in a number of ways, but primarily with the meaning ‘trust’ or ‘confidence’ in God. Mark 1:15 introduces and summarizes the Gospel with Jesus’ charge to his hearers to ‘repent . . . and believe the gospel.’ (The word usually translated ‘believe’ in this verse is the verb form of ‘faith’ for which there is no English equivalent. The call is repeated as ‘Have faith in God’; using the noun form, in Mark 11:22.) Thus, Jesus called His hearers to place their confidence in God.”<sup>3</sup> Outside the Gospels, faith is used in a variety of ways, all of which point back to that main understanding. Here are a few of them:

- **sanctification (Acts 26:18);**
- **purification (Acts 15:9);**
- **justification or imputed righteousness (Rom. 4:5; 5:1; Gal. 3:24);**
- **adoption as children of God (Gal. 3:26);**
- **a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22)—something God creates in a person;**
- **the state of salvation (Eph. 2:8-9).**

“Each of these comes by faith. As in the Gospels, faith is an attitude toward and relationship with God mediated by Christ Jesus. It is surrender to God’s gift of righteousness in Christ rather than seeking to achieve righteousness alone.”<sup>4</sup> The Bible never directly defines faith, but it comes close in Hebrews 11:1, “Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen.”

“Hebrews closely ties faith . . . to Christian hope. The personal conviction of faith encourages the Christian to continue hoping for the fulfillment of the promises of God . . . The ‘things hoped for’ have a reality greater than anyone’s hoping for them. Faith is then meant as a sort of foretaste of the hoped for things.”<sup>5</sup> The writer of Hebrews uses this word to speak to loyalty, allegiance, a following of God no matter what.

# By Faith

## GOD'S STRENGTH IN ME

When I was a girl, I remember walking down the halls of my middle school and hoping that no one would see just how scared I was to be there. I was being severely bullied by a group of girls who made it their goal in life to convince me I wasn't welcome and to try to get me to just give up.

Each day I walked in with that feeling in the pit of my stomach—you know which one I'm talking about, the one that rears its atrocious head when insecurities, doubt, and worry begin to make themselves a home in your heart and mind. This feeling became a posture of self-doubt, fear, and angst. And tragically, it's never gone away; I've just adapted to it. Life has a way of awakening the insecurities that lay dormant.

It didn't take long before I struggled to keep showing up in a space that left me wounded. But do you know what helped me keep going? My middle school counselor, Mrs. Polard. She was a soft place to land, a woman of love and light for a heart that needed it. With her I was able to laugh-cry off the days that crippled me with fear and sadness. I trusted her. And so, I showed up.

I tell you this story because it reminds me of our journeys through life. If your life looks anything like mine, then every day there are moments we come up against, each one with the potential to wound us, to steal our joy. We live in a fallen world marred by sin. What hope can we cling to? We need something—Someone—to look to, Someone to help pull us through. Being a Jesus follower invites us to something greater, something more than the brokenness of our world. In Christ we find belonging and purpose, for today and forever. In Christ we receive the resilience to show up and step forward.

Yesterday, we considered what faith is, using Hebrews 11:1-3 as our guide. Today, we'll pick up where we left off in Hebrews 11. After defining faith, verses 4-38 give us example after example of people in the Old Testament who—"by faith"—walked in obedience to God and lived out their God-given assignments as His children. Their stories show they were not always without fear or doubt but that they had trust in their God.

**READ HEBREWS 11:4-12 AND FILL IN THE CHART THAT FOLLOWS.**

PASSAGE	PERSON	ACT OF FAITH
Verse 4		
Verses 5-6		
Verse 7		
Verses 8-10		
Verses 11-12		

**What stands out to you as you reflect on the examples of faith you just read?**

The examples we see in verses 4-12—Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah—take us back to the earliest chapters of Genesis. From the moment Adam and Eve were banished from the garden and the presence of God, His relationship with His children became one of faith rather than sight. *By faith . . . By faith . . . By faith.* This phrase is the heartbeat of Hebrews 11 and the key to how each of these individuals lived in obedience to God, even as they faced hardships like ridicule, isolation, barrenness, and other all-too-familiar trials.

Earlier in the book of Hebrews, the author encouraged his readers “to persevere in the face of adversity, and have confidence in God, assuring them that His promises will be fulfilled (Heb. 10:19-38),” a theme he’ll return to again in chapter 12.<sup>6</sup> Our friends in Hebrews 11 were motivated by faith because of who they knew God to be and the power of His strength at work in them. This is the key to faith in action, to a life where our weakness does not keep us from showing up but is made perfect in God’s strength.

**Think about a time recently when you tried to work through a challenging situation in your own strength. How did operating from your strength hinder growth in your faith?**

**On the other hand, how does relying on God's strength help you build up an unwavering faith?**

That last question is harder to answer, isn't it? I love the way the apostle Paul helps us here:

Therefore, so that I would not exalt myself, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to torment me so that I would not exalt myself. Concerning this, I pleaded with the Lord three times that it would leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness."

*Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may reside in me. So I take pleasure in weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and in difficulties, for the sake of Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

**2 CORINTHIANS 12:7b-10 (CSB, EMPHASIS ADDED)**

When we are left with nothing, we boast in our weaknesses. When we can't keep going, we boast in our weaknesses. When life is too much for us to handle, we boast in our weaknesses. When God calls us to move through life, we live from His power and not ours because faith in Him is our anchor. Self-preservation will never get us where surrender can. I hope it's great news for you to hear that you don't have to muster up the emotional grit to take on the pain in your life; you can hand it over to Jesus—Someone much more capable than you are to carry you through.

As a wife, mother, daughter, and friend, I still have days where I feel like that little girl walking the halls of my middle school. I've spent nights collecting tears of emotional and spiritual exhaustion on my pillow, hiding away from the world as if my weaknesses and weary soul were things to be hidden. But it's in moments when obstacles do come—when the winds take us down, when the waves crash over us—that I'm learning to rely on God, His power, and His strength. While He may not immediately and miraculously change my difficult circumstances, I do know He will give me the power to face whatever is in front of me at the moment. I've seen Him do so time and again in my life and in the pages of His Word.

**Reflect on the past week. What is one “by faith” moment you’ve had this week? Write it in the space below, then spend some time talking to God. Specifically ask Him to help you live by faith more in the coming days.**

BY FAITH I . . .



# By Faith

## EVEN IN THE HARD THINGS

I've always wanted to see wild horses in person, the ones that seem to run with unrelenting courage and strength. Leaving behind whatever was, and only seeing what is ahead. I don't remember the exact movie where I first saw wild horses, but there's a scene where a woman meets these beautiful creatures, and in that moment, she begins to see life again. They sparked something in her. Maybe it was the courage to go again, the courage to get back up, to move forward, onward. (If you know the name of the movie, make sure to let me know!) As I watched her choose hope again, as I saw this resilience and gentle but fierce zeal rise up, my soul resonated with it. I wanted this.

These horses make me think of the faith we see on display in Hebrews 11. A faith fueled by trust—running the race ahead well, knowing we are being guided by a God who is trustworthy and good, and keeping our eyes on the “better place” that awaits us. Yesterday, we saw examples of this unwavering faith from the lives of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah (Heb. 11:4-16). Today we're going to jump back into Hebrews 11 and the “by faith” encouragement held there. Let's pick up where we left off.

**READ HEBREWS 11:17-31** and fill in the chart, just like yesterday!

PASSAGE	PERSON	ACT OF FAITH
Verses 17-19		
Verse 20		
Verse 21		
Verse 22		
Verse 23		

PASSAGE	PERSON	ACT OF FAITH
Verses 24-26		
Verse 27		
Verse 28		
Verse 29		

**What thoughts do you have as you reflect on the examples of faith you just read?**

**Which example encourages you the most in your current season of life or a trial you're walking through today? Put a star next to it on the chart.**

Like the examples we looked at yesterday, this list of “by faith” moments continues with more examples—including Abraham (whom we’ll look at more closely later in our study) and on through the rest of the patriarchs, Moses, the exodus out of Egypt, and Joshua’s conquest of the promised land. Most surprising in this list is the example of Rahab, a non-Israelite (Gentile) and a prostitute, who had faith in God because of His power and glory on display through the exodus events. The common thread through all these examples is trust in the Lord that motivates action.

**NOW READ HEBREWS 11:32-38. The people in Hebrews 11 are often referred to as “heroes of the faith.” What do you learn about being heroic in God’s eyes from their examples and what’s written about them in verses 32-38?**

**How does that compare with the way you usually think about people who are worth imitating? What perspective does this give you on your current trials?**

We typically think of heroes as the strongest, most beautiful, richest, most powerful, and so on—they are the best and most capable among us, and they are the ones doing the rescuing. But when we read through Hebrews 11, we're reminded the "heroes" of faithfulness are far from perfect, their lives were far from easy, and they needed a Rescuer. They were like you and me, people living life on mission in the mundane. But we get to see the fruit of their choosing obedience and faithfulness. Just as Jesus called them to faithfulness, so He calls us to a life of faithfulness in Him. Although that life is often costly and it comes with its own set of sacrifices, the reward far outweighs the cost.

I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.

**JOHN 16:33 (CSB)**

May this be our resolve, our faith in action, too. Our faith will take us where our sight can't. When we trust the will of God, we will follow the plan of God by walking out our obedience—loving Him and His people.

The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand.

**PSALM 37:23-24**

**What is a specific situation or an area of your life where God is asking you to trust Him more? Think of at least one example and write it down. Then, use that as the basis of your prayer time as you wrap up today's study.**

# *By Faith in Jesus*

## THE PROMISE

I try to not break promises, but of course there are times when I do. I've been known to be the person who can't tell people no, so there are times when I overcommit myself, knowing good and well that I won't be able to follow through. A few years back, my son Kingston got the short end of my well-meaning broken promise.

I promised Kingston I would take him out on a mommy/son date, and I'd been repeating that same promise for several weeks. But I was absolutely exhausted from the season of life we were in, and as each evening came and went, I kept reassuring Kingston this date would happen soon. I lacked the courage to honestly say, "Mommy just can't right now. Let's try and find another way to connect until these next two weeks settle down." I didn't say that, and I ended up letting him down.

I've also experienced moments and people much like myself who have promised me the world, only to come back with empty dreams and unmet expectations. Have you ever experienced this? I'm sure you have! Promises are so misused that I think we've lost touch of the integrity, the weightiness, of what a promise holds.

**Reflect on the last promise you broke. What happened, and how do you feel thinking back on that?**

**Now think about the last time someone broke a promise they made to you. How did you feel at the time, and how was your relationship with that person affected?**

Before we look at the last two verses of Hebrews 11, I want you to spend a few minutes considering God's promise-keeping nature. (For an even longer list, check out the article "What are the promises of God?" at [gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org).)

- "God promised to bless Abraham and, through his descendants, the whole world (Genesis 12:2-3). This promise, called the Abrahamic Covenant, pointed to the coming Messiah for whom Abraham looked (John 8:56).
- God promised that all things will work out for good for His children (Romans 8:28). This is the broader picture that keeps us from being dismayed by present circumstances.
- God promised comfort in our trials (2 Corinthians 1:3-4). He has a plan, and one day we will be able to share the comfort we receive.
- God promised new life in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17). Salvation is the beginning of a brand-new existence.
- God promised every spiritual blessing in Christ (Ephesians 1:3).
- God promised to finish the work He started in us (Philippians 1:6). God does nothing in half measures. He started the work of redemption in us, and He will be sure to complete it.
- God promised peace when we pray (Philippians 4:6-7). His peace is protection. It 'will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ.'"
- God promised to supply our needs (Matthew 6:33; Philippians 4:19). . . . We are more valuable than the birds, and our heavenly Father feeds them (Matthew 6:26)."<sup>7</sup>

**Take a few moments to reflect on these promises. Which ones speak most to you today and why?**

**In general, what do these promises teach you about God? How do they strengthen your faith in Him?**

In Hebrews 11:39-40 (CSB) we read,

All these were approved through their faith, but they did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect without us.

**What do you think the writer meant by “what was promised” and “something better for us”?**

**NOW READ HEBREWS 6:17-20 AND HEBREWS 12:1-2. How do these passages help you better understand God’s love and faithful promise toward you?**

Earlier this week, we considered the example of Abraham, and how, as he followed God, he lived a life of faith in action. We first see God in Genesis 17:4 promise Abraham that he would be a father of many nations, a promise God was faithful to keep as He grew His people from Abraham’s family line, which is the focus of the rest of the book of Genesis. Ultimately though, this promise was to be fulfilled in Christ Jesus, because through Him, acceptance into God’s family became available to everyone, regardless of lineage. Jesus is the answer to the promise the Old Testament saints kept their eyes on, and He is the “something better” available to us.

*GOD IS  
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**READ JOHN 3:16 and write it here:**

God is not like us; He doesn’t overcommit or fail us. He doesn’t overextend love; He freely gives it, never running out. And He is faithful to keep all His promises (Ps. 145:13). Jesus is our assurance of that, and He is the One on whom an unwavering faith is built. Because without Him, we have nothing.

The friends in Hebrews 11:3-38, those who by faith obeyed God, did not get to experience the salvation available by grace through faith in Jesus. Rather, they believed God would be faithful to His promise and eagerly awaited its fulfillment. You and I today, though, get to experience this promise of salvation! And while we also eagerly wait for the day when the world will be made right, we hold fast to the promise of Jesus's return (Matt. 24:27-31; Acts 1:11; Rev. 19-20).

Resilience is built in seasons much like the people in Hebrews 11 experienced, in our times of spiritual desperation. Life can be unpredictable and full of moments when we miss God working out His promise right in front of us. But He is always at work building up our faith and transforming us into His image. Don't miss the miracle in the middle, the in-between. And remember that, unlike our Old Testament friends, we get to live in the beautiful reality of relationship with Jesus today.

**READ BACK OVER JOHN 3:16. Write down a few thoughts of reflection you have as you let your mind dwell on the truth of the gospel.**

# Reflection

It's your first reflection day, dear friend. Every fifth day of study has been set aside as an intentional time for you to look back at the week. I'm giving you three questions to help focus your reflection time as well as some things to think about while you spend extra time talking to God in prayer. No matter where you are in your own journey of faith—just beginning, struggling with doubt, reminding yourself that God is faithful, years down the road of your story, or some combination of these—today's the day to process what God is showing you. Put it down on paper and meet with Him in prayer.

- 1.** Write an explanation of “faith” in your own words, looking back at your notes from this week of study as you need to. This practice will help faith move from a general religious term to a part of your life you're able to share confidently with others.
- 2.** What is one big takeaway or main idea you want to remember from this week of study?
- 3.** What is one idea or thought you need to lay down that contradicts God's faithful love for you?
- 4.** Now write out an honest prayer reflecting on the current season of your faith and what Jesus is teaching you. Use the space here or a separate journal so you can look back on this prayer when you need it later.

# Session Two

## Video Viewer Guide

THE KEY TO UNWAVERING FAITH



**WATCH** the Session Two video and take notes below.

### GROUP DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

*A leader guide is available for download at [lifeway.com/withoutwavering](http://lifeway.com/withoutwavering)*

1. What day of personal study had the most impact on you? Why?
2. How did what you heard on the video teaching clarify, reinforce, or give new insight into what you studied this session?
3. Pick an example of faith in God from Hebrews 11 that stood out to you and share your thoughts. You might also want to share the definitions of faith you wrote down on page 33.
4. In the video, Alexandra encouraged us that a big part of faith is admitting to God that we need Him and we trust Him. Why is this hard to do? What are some lies we believe from the world that make us think surrender and neediness aren't OK?
5. Discuss your responses to the reflection questions on page 33.



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