

Weekly Study Guide

The week of November 1, 2015

Wish to view the message again? Go to vimeo.com/flcwb. Will you be out of town soon? Watch online at livestream.com/flcwb.

Would you like to ask Pastor Steve a question about today's message? Contact him at 651.429.5349 x215 or sturnbull@flcwb.org.

Daily Readings

Monday	Hebrews 11:1-6	Tuesday	Hebrews 11:7-16	Wednesday	Hebrews 11:17-22
Thursday	Hebrews 11:23-28	Friday	Hebrews 11:29-40	Saturday	Hebrews 12:1-3

My notes on this week's readings...

Next Week in Worship

Next week: Next Generation Sunday

Next week's readings: Philippians 3:7-14 and Luke 5:27-32

Next week is Next Gen Sunday and is also a great opportunity to be encouraged by the stories God is writing in our children and youth. Join us for a youth-led service in our Sanctuary at 9 and/or 10:30 as we continue to be strengthened in the Heart of the Story.

first lutheran church

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Group Discussion

Connect

Do you have any Christian heroes—people who have followed Jesus in ways that inspire and encourage you? Share their stories with your group.

Learn and Respond

Read Hebrews 11:1-40 as a group. (It's a long passage, and you might want to take turns reading.)

- Once you finish reading the passage, what's the main thing that strikes you or stands out to you?
- Are there any stories among this list you especially want to know more about? If anyone in your group has a study Bible (or Google...), you could find the reference for most of these stories in the Old Testament or find more historical information.
- The "book" of Hebrews was a letter to Christians who were struggling to persevere in their faith. How would a list like this be encouraging in that context?
- **Read vv. 1-2 again.** We don't always get to see what we are hoping for. Where is something like this a challenge for you right now?
- **Read vv. 39-40 again.** We tend to romanticize "heroes" in the past, but this passage says the past needs us too. What do you think of that?

Read Hebrews 12:1-3. This passage imagines the Christian life as a journey or race that requires some endurance.

- Verse 1 says we are surrounded by a cloud (or crowd) of witnesses cheering us on, including people who have died. How does it feel to think of being cheered on by Christians from the past?
- Verse 1 also says there are things that hinder us and sin that entangles us as we "run." What do you think you might need to "throw off" as you run your race?
- If saints from the past are cheering us on from the bleachers, maybe we could think of our present Christian community as teammates and fellow runners. How can your teammates help you get through the hindrances or entanglements you face? How can you help others?

The climax of this passage is in Hebrews 12: 2-3: "Fix your eyes on Jesus," and especially on his faith in God through the cross, leading to the resurrection and ascension. How does Jesus' example help us to "not grow weary and lose heart"?

Pray

Are you weary or losing heart, as Hebrews 12:3 spoke to Christians before us? Share your discouragements with one another and pray for each other that God will strengthen us in hope through Jesus Christ and through the great cloud of witnesses cheering us on.