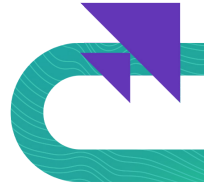




DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE



“THE GRASS WITHERS, THE FLOWER FADES,
BUT THE WORD OF OUR GOD WILL STAND FOREVER.”

ISAIAH 40:8

THIS READING PLAN IS FOR YOU!

Hey Gospel City, this week we are going to study what the Bible says about faith. As we will read, we are saved through faith alone, the righteous shall live by faith, and without faith it is impossible to please God. So clearly faith is extremely important. But what is biblical faith? What is the difference between faith that saves and wishful thinking or mere passive intellectual agreement? The passages we will read will answer these questions and much, much more. The foundation for our study will be Hebrews 11. From this chapter's survey of the holy men of old we will see that genuine faith is born from an inward response to revelation which manifests itself in outward obedience. Therefore, biblical faith is not a groundless hope in the unknown; rather it is belief in the evidence that has been revealed. And its genuineness is not proven by the amount that revelation is agreed with; rather it is proven by the amount that revelation is obeyed. As we will see, saving faith gives us the courage to obey God even when the world considers us to be fools. Saving faith obeys God even when His commands do not make any sense. Saving faith trusts God even when He is asking us to go up against kings and armies and oceans. Saving faith treasures Jesus more than life itself. Saving faith trusts in the cross of Christ for justification. And all of this faith is the righteous response to God's Word, which created the universe, wrote the Bible, dwelt among us, and abundantly proves that He is worthy of our faith. So Gospel City, behold all the evidence we have to believe. We pray that this week will help you run the race and look to Jesus, the founder, perfecter, and object of our faith.

THE FORMAT OF THE READING PLAN WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

READ:

What you will read is living and active (Heb. 4:12). It has the power to revive your soul (Ps. 19:7). Its truth is worth more than fine gold (Ps. 19:10), and it will never fail or fade away (Is. 40:8). Go to it humbly, hear God speak, and be reminded of the Hope that you have in Jesus.

MEDITATE ON:

Simply reading the Word is like briskly walking by a warm fire on a cold night. But meditation is like sitting by the warm fire so that it lights up for your face and warms your bones. (Don Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*). Therefore, pick a verse from each section to meditate on. What does it mean? What does it say about God? What does it say about you? What do you need to do to obey? You can pick any verse. But we will suggest a verse each time in case you have trouble picking one.

DISCUSS THIS:

We do not want to just be hearers of the Word; we want to be doers of the Word as well. Ask yourself and those around you how you can apply the text, how you can obey the text, and how you can bring glory to your Father in heaven.

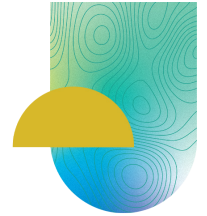
PRAY THIS:

Pray to your Father that the Holy Spirit would empower the Word of Christ to become true in your hearts, your lives, this church, and this world. Pray the Word back to God. For he always answers us when we pray according to his will (1 John 5:14). And the best way to pray according to his will is to pray his Word!



DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

GOSPEL CITY | FAITH



SUNDAY | JUNE 21

READ: HEBREWS 11:1-3 + GENESIS 1:1-31

MEDITATE ON:

“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.”

HEBREWS 11:3

DISCUSS THIS:

What is the difference between faith and wishful thinking? Why does your belief about where the world comes from so greatly impact the way you live your life today? (Bonus: What is the relationship between faith and revelation?).

PRAY THIS:

Dear Father, thank you for creating a universe that is full of the evidence of your goodness, and thank you for enabling us to taste and see that which is invisible to a blind world. Help us to view every area of our lives through the lens of your world-shaping word. For if your word has the power to create universes, then surely it has the power to conform us into the image of your Son. We believe, Lord. Help our unbelief through the power of your Word. Amen.

MONDAY | JUNE 22

READ: HEBREWS 11:4-7 + GENESIS 6:9-7:6

MEDITATE ON:

“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.”

HEBREWS 11:6

DISCUSS THIS:

Why did it take faith for Noah to build an ark? What are some challenges or reasons for doubt that he would have faced? Since we too live in a day where there is only one hope for salvation from the inevitable world-wide judgement, what are some things we can learn from Noah (See 2 Peter 3:1-13).

PRAY THIS:

Dear Father, we believe that this world is rampant with sin. We believe that you are holy and will by no means clear the guilty. We believe that we are all guilty, and that your wrath is coming. Therefore, help us to respond like Noah. Help us to withstand all of the pressures to only believe in what we can see, help us to overcome all the temptations to live like there is no tomorrow, and help us to cling to Jesus, who is our only hope for salvation. Thank you for the cross, for without it we would surely drown in your wrath. Amen.



GOSPEL CITY | FAITH

TUESDAY | JUNE 23

READ: HEBREWS 11:8-16 + ROMANS 4:1-25

MEDITATE ON:

“That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring.”

ROMANS 4:16

DISCUSS THIS:

Make a list of all the things you have earned from God. Then make a list of all of the things that God has promised to freely give you through the gospel. How do the lists compare? In what ways does this perspective enhance your understanding of the good news that God’s promises depend on grace through faith?

PRAY THIS:

Dear Father, forgive us for deceiving ourselves into thinking that we could possibly earn something from you, for every second of life is a gift! And thank you for not giving us what we truly do deserve. Thank you for the gospel, through which you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing imaginable. Give us faith like Abraham. Help us to live in such a way that evidences a faith in the fact that you are God and heaven is our home. Amen.

WEDNESDAY | JUNE 24

READ: HEBREWS 11:17-20 + GENESIS 22:1-18

MEDITATE ON:

“He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back.”

HEBREWS 11:19

DISCUSS THIS:

God promised to make a great nation out of Abraham, and then He asked him to sacrifice his only hope for the fulfilment of that promise. This means that God expects us to obey Him even when it does not make any sense to us. What are some things God has asked you to do that do not make any sense? How have you responded?

PRAY THIS:

Dear Father, forgive us for so often only obeying you as far as it makes sense to us. For when that is the case our faith is not really in you; rather our faith is really in our own ability to manipulate you to get what we want. Help us to believe in you, not because of what you can give us, but because of your unchanging character. You are worthy of our unconditional trust, for you are merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Help us to obey you no matter how much we do or do not understand. Amen.





GOSPEL CITY | FAITH



THURSDAY | JUNE 25

READ: HEBREWS 11:21-31 + EXODUS 14:10-31

MEDITATE ON:

“By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible.”

HEBREWS 11:27

DISCUSS THIS:

Moses was trapped between the most powerful army in the world and a giant body of water. But his faith in the Lord overcame his fear of the surrounding circumstances. What are some things in your world that you fear? What are some ways that you can cultivate a heart that overcomes fear with faith?

PRAY THIS:

Dear Father, you have the power to create universes, you have the authority to send a world-wide flood, you have the ability to open the womb, and you have the strength to part the Red Sea. If you are for us, who can be against us?! Help us to consider your power and respond in fear of you and you alone. Even if we anger worldly kings, get chased by armies, get stuck in a wilderness, or pass through the valley of the shadow of death, we will have no fear because you are with us. Help us to endure and give us faith in your eternal power. Amen.

FRIDAY | JUNE 26

READ: HEBREWS 11:32-40 + DANIEL 3:8-30

MEDITATE ON:

“If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

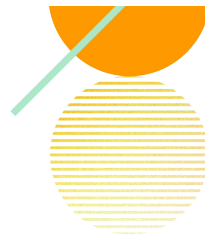
DANIEL 3:17-18

DISCUSS THIS:

Are you willing to die for what you believe about Jesus (this question has not been hypothetical for most Christians throughout history)? What does it take to cultivate a faith that believes that Jesus is more precious than life itself?

PRAY THIS:

Dear Father, thank you for the men and women throughout history who have stared death in the face and declared to the watching world that Jesus is more precious than life itself. Help us to cherish Christ for who He is. For He is worthy of glory and honor and wisdom and power and blessing. Help us truly believe that to live is Christ and to die is gain. He is worthy. We believe Lord, help our unbelief. Amen.



SATURDAY | JUNE 27

READ: HEBREWS 12:1-2 + GALATIANS 2:15-3:14

MEDITATE ON:

“I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness were through the law, then Christ died for no purpose.”

GALATIANS 2:21

DISCUSS THIS:

Paul’s argument is that anyone who attempts to be justified through works is cursed and nullifies the grace of God because we are justified by faith alone. But Hebrews 11 is a series of testimonies commending people for what they *did*, not just what they believed. So what is faith? And what is the relationship between faith and works?

PRAY THIS:

Dear Father, help us to crucify our fleshly impulse that believes we can earn your grace. Help us to also crucify our fleshly understanding of the gospel which confuses saving faith with passive intellectual agreement. Forgive us and bless us with the faith like the holy saints of old. Help us to believe that we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. And through this faith produce in us a life full of works for your glory! For we know that we are saved through faith alone, but faith that saves is never alone. Amen.

