

SERMON OUTLINE

In Hebrews 11:20-22, we see 3 examples of men who exhibited faith in God's future promises as they approached death.

- I. Isaac, by faith in God's future promises, blessed his children (v.20).
- II. Jacob, by faith in God's future promises, blessed his grandchildren (v. 21).
- III. Joseph, by faith in God's future promises:
 - A. Promised his brothers that God would deliver them from Egypt (v. 22a).
 - B. Commanded his brothers to take his bones out of Egypt with them (v. 22b).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, March 14, 2021

Passage: Hebrews 11:20-22

Memory Passage: Hebrews 11:20-22

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Heb. 11:1-19.** So we do not lose sight of chapter 11's overall thrust, spend today reading the first 19 verses and making a list of everything you have learned about faith so far. For example, what faith is, what faith does, and what faith looks like. Also, write down all of the applications you have put into practice as we have studied this chapter.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Heb. 11:20-22 & Gen. 25:19-26:5.** In Gen. 25:19-34, what do you learn about (1) Jacob and Esau themselves, (2) Isaac & Rebekah's view of their sons, and (3) God's view of their future?

(b) Explain the blessing given to Jacob (Gen. 27:26-29). What does the blessing's language remind you of and to what does it point?

(c) Explain the blessing given to Esau (Gen. 27:39-40). To what does it point?

(d) Hebrews 11:20 presents Isaac as an example of faith when he blessed his sons. Why is this so?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Heb. 11:20-22 & Gen. 48:1-22.** What is unusual about Jacob blessing Joseph's two sons?

(b) Explain the blessing given to Ephraim. What does the blessing's language remind you of and to what does it point?

(c) **Read Psalm 78:9-10, 67-68.** Though the promise made to Abraham was to be carried on through Ephraim, what do these verses from Psalm 78 tell you about how God ultimately carried them out?

(d) Hebrews 11:21 presents Jacob as an example of faith when he blessed Joseph's sons. Why is this so?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Heb. 11:20-22 & Gen. 50:22-26.** What does Joseph promise his brothers?

(b) What does Joseph ask/command of his brothers?

(c) Why did Joseph want his bones carried back to the Promised Land (cf. Ex. 13:17-19 for this fulfillment)?

(d) Hebrews 11:22 presents Joseph as an example of faith when he both promised God's deliverance and asked for his bones to be returned home. Why is this so?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Heb. 11:20-22.** How are each of these Patriarchs examples of those who "died in/according to faith?"

(b) Write down at least 3 ways vs. 20-22 encourage and equip you to accept and live according to God's sovereign plan. Consider, for instance, that each of these 3 men was, in worldly terms, undeserving of receiving the blessing because they were not the first-born son, and they were not the worldly standard of success (Isaac was at best a weak man, Jacob was a cheat and manipulator, and Joseph was a victim of others' hate) and yet God carried on His promises through each one.

(c) Each of these men was near death yet continued to trust in God's promises as the reality and proof of what they hoped for but could not physically see. In what ways are you struggling to hold to the solid reality of God's promises as you walk through this confusing world? In what ways do Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph's faith encourage you to grow in your ability to walk by faith and not by sight?

(d) What circumstances in your life are you walking through in which the details seem hopeless, without any possible good or desired resolution? How does the faith of these men equip you to walk by faith and not by sight in these specific situations? Remember, God's will was not thwarted when the conventions of the world said the oldest son must receive the blessing, or by the sinfulness of men, so God will not be thwarted as He accomplishes His will by any circumstances in your life either.

DATE: March 14, 2021

PASSAGE: Hebrews 11:20-22

Faith in Future Promises