

Faith Worth Remembering

True faith is not abstract. The kind of faith that pleases God has stories attached to it. In this series we will look at some of the Bible's best faith stories retold in Hebrews 11. They are stories of courage, stories of resilience, stories worth remembering. And since their God is our God, our remembering can inspire us to live some faith stories of our own.

Week 4: ...Lives In the Future Tense

1. Rick began by pointing out that *"It is hard to face the future without hope, and it is impossible to have hope without God."* How has this been true for you? Follow up: **Read Ephesians 2:8-13**. Does anything from these verses resonate with your past & future?
2. **Read Hebrews 11:17-22**. When you recall each of the stories referenced here, what do they have in common and how does that encourage and/or convict you?
3. **FAITH WORTH REMEMBERING... lives in the future tense.** People of faith let "then" impact "now". How was that true for Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph? Follow up: What does it mean to live in the future tense? **Read 2 Peter 3:3-14**. What are the key takeaways from this text? How should "then" impact "now"?
4. **LIVE IN THE FUTURE TENSE: Frame your life around God's promises.** Promise is God's will and power to create a new future out of a barren past. In what ways did Abraham embrace the promises of God (see **Genesis 22:5 & Hebrews 11:19**)? Follow up: What do you need to trust God with even though you can't see how it will work out?
5. **LIVE IN THE FUTURE TENSE: Name your identity as God's heir.** Read **Genesis 48:5, 10, 15-16, and 20**. Why is this act of Jacob blessing Joseph's sons significant enough to be highlighted in **Hebrews 11:21**? How is that relevant to our lives today?
6. **LIVE IN THE FUTURE TENSE: Proclaim your confidence in God's faithfulness.** Read **Hebrews 11:22**. How did Joseph know about the promise to return to Canaan? What promises about the future should we be telling future generations?
7. **EXODUS IS COMING! Hope in exodus is the genesis of faith.** Hope has to be based on a foundation that nothing in the future can destroy. Read **1 Peter 1:3**. What basis does Peter give for a living hope and why is that crucial for our faith too? Follow up: How has the resurrection of Jesus personally given you hope to finish strong?

