

# STUDY NOTES

## HEBREWS: A PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE FAITH

A Series At New City Church

[www.newcityphx.com/sermons](http://www.newcityphx.com/sermons)

The following content is based on the message "Stepping into the Unseen Kingdom" on 4/5/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

## PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

## SCRIPTURE: JOHN 12:12-18 and HEBREWS 11:17-31

## FAITH DOESN'T TELL GOD WHAT TO DO

**Read John 12:12-18.** The crowds that ushered Jesus into the city shouting "Hosanna" only showed up because they wanted to see Jesus do another miracle. They didn't believe in the works that Jesus had planned. They only believed in Jesus because of what they wanted from him. Many times, we treat Jesus the same way. We place our faith in what we want him to do, not in Jesus himself. We try to tell God what to do through our faith.

### **Faith doesn't tell God what to do.**

- *In what ways have you placed your faith in what God can do rather than in God himself?*

Just a few days later, the crowd that praised Jesus was shouting "Crucify Him!" What happened? When Jesus didn't do what the crowd wanted, they left him. Inevitably, Jesus will tell us that our way isn't the right way. It is in those moments where we can find out if our faith is really in Jesus or in our circumstances.

- *How do you respond when Jesus provides a different way than what your faith had initially planned?*

## FAITH DOESN'T SETTLE

The crowd turned from Jesus because they were settling for their present circumstances rather than living for the greater, unseen kingdom that Jesus was building. We often settle for what we see rather than stepping into the better freedom that Jesus has for us. We settle for a faith that pursues things that won't actually fulfill us. We've placed our hope in kingdoms that we've constructed, and they are really poor kingdoms! They just put us further into bondage to our idols.

### **Faith doesn't settle.**

- *How do you usually settle for what is seen rather than stepping into the better, unseen kingdom that Jesus is building?*
- *In what ways has putting your faith in what is seen let you down or enslaved you to that thing even more?*

## FAITH SURRENDERS

**Read Hebrews 11:17-31.** Abraham surrendered his family to God when he offered up Isaac. Moses surrendered his wealth and status to God when he left his place in Pharaoh's house. Rahab surrendered her comfort to God when she protected the spies from their enemies. Faith always has to surrender what we see to God. If we can't surrender something (or be willing to surrender it), then that thing becomes an idol in our life.

### **Faith surrenders what we see to God.**

- *How has God asked you to surrender something during this pandemic?*

## FAITH IS SHARED

Hebrews 11 is often called the "Hall of Faith." Every single one of these people had to act on their faith. According to verse 26, They had faith in Jesus. They had faith in the unseen kingdom of God, not in the kingdoms that they themselves had constructed. This is what separated them from the crowd that we looked at in the beginning. These people actually participated, and when they participated, their faith was passed along to others. Other people "caught" their faith.

### **Faith is shared with others through action.**

- *If you were to self-reflect, what do you think people catch from your life?*
- *How would you like to grow in your faith during this pandemic?*
- *Pray with each other to live in faith.*