



September 25/26, 2010

Hebrews 11

"Faith Lessons" Part 3

Pastor Gary Hamrick

So far in the *Faith Lessons* series, we've looked at the lives of Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. In this study we're taking a look at the faith-filled lives of Joseph, Moses' parents, Amram and Jochebed, and Moses.

When you consider the details of the lives of these men, remember that faith is defined as "action based on trust and confidence in the promises and faithfulness of God," it's easy to see they belong in the faith heroes Hall of Faith.

Joseph

1. In [Hebrews 11:22](#), we're reminded of the fact that Joseph was the favored son (11th of 12 sons) of Jacob.
2. He was the recipient and wearer of the famous "*coat of many colors.*" ([Genesis 37:11](#))
3. Because his brothers were jealous of his "most favored son" status, they sold him into slavery to a band of Midianites, who were on their way to Egypt, and they concocted a story to tell their father, Jacob, about wild animals killing Joseph.
4. God's favor was with Joseph in Egypt, and he was eventually promoted to second in command, next to Pharaoh.
5. Joseph was a model of integrity and what the life of a man of God should look like.
 - a. He resisted temptation (Potiphar's wife - [Genesis 39:6b-23](#))

- b. He refused to blame others for his difficulties
 - c. He recognized God's providence even during his trials
 - d. He repaid evil with good
6. Joseph's family, who hadn't seen or heard from him since he was about 17 years old, came down to Egypt to escape a severe drought and famine in Israel. He was not only reunited with his family, he forgave his brothers, which led to his family staying in Egypt.
7. What began as a family of about 75 people would, over the next 400 years, become a few million people, who would be enslaved by succeeding Pharaohs.
8. **Exodus 2:23b-25** - *"The Israelites groaned in their slavery and cried out, and their cry for help because of their slavery went up to God. God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and Jacob. So God looked on the Israelites and was concerned about them."*
- a. Moses would be the man God raised up to deliver them from the Egyptians.
9. It's interesting to note that approximately 300 years before Moses, Joseph saw a day when the Israelites would be delivered from their slavery in Egypt and be taken back to the Promised Land.
- a. Joseph said, "When that day comes, take my bones back to that Land with you!"
 - i. **Genesis 50:24-26** - *"Then Joseph said to his brothers, 'I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' And Joseph made the sons of Israel swear on oath and said, 'God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place.' So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt."*
10. A few hundred years passed and Moses remembered Joseph's request!
- a. **Exodus 13:18-19** - *"So God led the people around by the desert road toward the Red Sea. The Israelites went up out of Egypt armed for battle. Moses took the bones of Joseph with him because Joseph made the sons of Israel swear on oath. He had said, 'God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up with you from this place.' "*

11. Joseph had a prominent career in Egypt, and he was married and had children there, so why would he want his bones to be buried in the land of his forefathers, a land he hadn't seen since he was 17 years old?
 - a. Look at the insight [Joshua 24:32](#) provides: *"And Joseph's bones, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem... This became the inheritance of Joseph's descendants."*
 - b. This whole business about his bones was all about inheritance.
 - c. Joseph wanted his bones returned to the place that God had promised his father, Jacob, his grandfather, Isaac, and his great-grandfather, Abraham, because that's where his heart was, and he wanted that to be the inheritance for his descendants, not Egypt.
12. In Biblical typology, Egypt represents the world and slavery in Egypt is a picture of slavery to this world.
 - a. It's a contrast to the Promised Land, which was God's place of blessing and inheritance, a place of deliverance from the bondage of this world.
13. The Faith Lesson is that even though we live in this world, there is an inheritance we've been promised in Christ that we should long for by faith, not only for ourselves, but for our children, too.
14. [1 Peter 1:3-4](#) - *"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you..."*

Moses' Parents

15. Moses' parents are included in the Hall of Faith because they defied the king's order and were unafraid of the potential consequences.
16. [Exodus 1](#) tells us Moses' parents were living in Egypt as slaves.
17. The reigning Pharaoh saw the increasing population of Hebrew slaves in the land and he was afraid of a massive revolt, so he gave orders for the Hebrew midwives to kill any male babies they delivered. ([Exodus 1:15-22](#))
18. The Hebrew midwives defied the king's orders because they feared God more than the king!

19. Jochebed had a baby boy, which she hid for three months because she saw he was *“no ordinary child.”* (**Hebrews 11:22**)
- a. She saw more than just a cute baby; she perceived a special purpose for his life.
 - b. When she was no longer able to hide him, she covered a basket with pitch and put him in the basket, and then she placed basket in the Nile River, which is an incredible demonstration of trust in God concerning her son’s life!
 - c. When Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, she found the basket and the baby, which she recognized as being a Hebrew.
 - d. She named him Moses, which means *drawn out*, because she had drawn him out of the water.¹
20. The Faith Lesson is that they trusted God with their child, and they had faith in God’s goodness rather than fear the enemy’s harm.

Moses

21. Moses was raised in Pharaoh’s palace, and the best that life offered was at his disposal.
- a. **Acts 7:22** - *“Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in speech and action.”*
22. Moses knew of his Hebrew heritage and he was grieved over the mistreatment of his brothers, and he couldn’t stand the fact that he had the best of life, while his people experienced slavery at its worst.
23. Moses killed an Egyptian, who was abusing an Israelite, and then he fled Egypt, leaving all of the status, wealth and privilege he had known.
24. He went to the desert of Midian, where he lived the next 40 years, and it was in this desert experience that God would shape Moses into a deliverer of God’s people.
25. **Hebrews 11:25-27** - *“He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because*

¹ The name “Moses” comes from a root meaning “take out,” because Moses was taken out of the river (Ex. 2:10). Some modern scholars point out that the root M-S-S in Egyptian means “son of” as in the name Ramases (son of Ra), but it is worth noting that Moses’ name in Hebrew is M-Sh-H, not M-S-S. According to one Jewish source, Pharaoh’s daughter actually named him Minios, which means “drawn out” in Egyptian, and the name Moshe (Moses) was a Hebrew translation of that name, just as a Russian immigrant named Ivan might change his name to the English equivalent, John.
<http://www.jewfaq.org/moshe.htm>

he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible."

26. His identity was more about being a child of God, even if that meant hardship and mistreatment, than in being the adopted grandson of Pharaoh with all its privileges and pleasures.
27. He was willing to suffer, be mistreated and disgraced for the sake of Christ, a decision that was of greater value than all the treasures and triumphs of the world, and in so doing, he was able to measure eternal value over temporal pleasure.
28. The Faith Lesson we learn is that Moses, by faith, believed there was a greater reward in Christ than anything this world has to offer!

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [Hebrews 11:22-28](#) to provide an overview for this study.
3. Joseph was a model of integrity and a Godly man in spite of many difficult experiences.
 - a. Spend time talking about experiences the people in your group have had regarding situations and incidents in Joseph's life. (See #5 above)
4. Discuss the Faith Lesson we learn from Joseph's life. (See #13 above)
5. Moses' parents, Amram and Jochebed, trusted the Lord with the future of their son.
 - a. Allow people to share memories about the milestones they experienced with their children.
 - i. Some examples would include: preschool, 1st grade, middle school, high school, college, and marriage.
 - b. How have you trusted the Lord with your child(ren)?
 - c. Have there been times when it seemed like the Lord wasn't there?
 - d. How are you intentionally releasing your child(ren) to the Lord on a daily basis?

6. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences regarding things, positions, etc., that they've given up for the sake of Christ.
 - a. What was the process of decision-making?
 - b. Was there an emphasis on the impact of their relationship with the Lord?

7. Is it possible to have all of the things Moses enjoyed *and* have a vital, ongoing relationship with the Lord?
 - a. Have you or someone you know, been able to do this?
 - b. What was the difference that made this possible?

8. Discuss the Faith Lesson we learn from Moses' life. (See #28 above)

9. Close your time with prayer and allow the Holy Spirit: to help each person model the Godly characteristics found in Joseph's life (resist temptation - refuse to blame others for their difficulties - recognize God's providence even in their trials - repay evil with good); to help each parent to trust God with their child(ren); to help each person determine to choose the Lord over any of the pleasures of this world, which only last a season, and to have their eye set on the rewards of the Lord, which last for eternity;