Hebrews 11:1-3

Leader Guide: Hebrews 11:1–3

Big idea:

Faith is not vague optimism; it is a Spirit-given assurance rooted in the unseen realities God has revealed—ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who is the object, author, and perfecter of our faith.

- **Discussion Questions with Leader Notes & Suggested Answers**
- What does it mean that "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen"?

Leader notes:

- · Invite the group to unpack words like assurance and conviction.
- Faith is not "I hope so," but a confident trust in God's promises.

Suggested answer: Faith is confidence that God's promises (even those unseen or future) are true because of who He is. It isn't based on our feelings but grounded in the reliability of God and His Word.

Follow-up: Ask: What's the difference between biblical faith and cultural ideas of "just have faith"?

- 2 In what ways is Jesus both the object and the perfecter of our faith? (see Hebrews 12:2) Leader notes:
- Faith's power comes not from us, but from its object: Christ.
- · He is the one who both gives us faith and brings it to completion.

Suggested answer: We trust in Jesus' person and finished work—not in our effort. He begins faith in us through the Spirit and sustains us until we're with Him.

Follow-up: Ask: How does this free us from anxiety over "do I have enough faith?"

3 Verse 3 says the universe was created by God's word. How does John 1:1–3 ("In the beginning was the Word...") deepen our understanding? Leader notes:

- Point out how creation was by the Word, and Jesus is that Word.
- · Christ is not just Savior, but Creator and Sustainer.

Suggested answer: Jesus, as the eternal Word, is directly involved in creation. Faith in the unseen God is faith in the living Christ who made and upholds all things.

Follow-up: Ask: How does seeing Christ as Creator strengthen your trust in Him?

4 How can the certainty of faith in what we cannot see transform daily life? Leader notes:

- Encourage practical examples: anxiety, parenting, suffering.
- Faith reorients our focus from circumstances to promises.

Suggested answer: It helps us live with hope, courage, and peace—even when life feels uncertain—because God's unseen promises are more real than what we see.

Solution What are "the things hoped for" in the Christian life? How do these hopes find fulfillment in Jesus? Leader notes:

- · Let group list some: eternal life, resurrection, new creation, forgiveness.
- Tie back to Jesus as the fulfillment.

Suggested answer: All our hopes (for salvation, restoration, glory) are anchored in Christ's finished work and His promised return.

6 Why does Hebrews start the "faith chapter" by defining faith? How does this shape how we read the stories that follow?

Leader notes:

- Faith is defined before illustrated.
- The focus is on what God does, not human heroics.

Suggested answer: It keeps us from idolizing the people; their faith was great because of the great God they trusted. Their faith points forward to Christ, the ultimate faithful one.

Share about a time when trusting in the unseen promises of God helped you.

Leader notes:

- Personal sharing builds vulnerability and encouragement.
- Keep it Christ-centered: how did His promises sustain you?

Follow-up: Ask: How did that experience change your view of God's faithfulness?

B Hebrews 11 points forward to Jesus as the greater fulfillment of God's promises. How does this help us keep faith when the world seems discouraging?

Leader notes:

- Bring hope into the present struggles.
- · Jesus is the guarantee of final victory.

Suggested answer: Knowing Jesus has already secured victory reminds us suffering and evil won't have the last word; our faith rests in His finished work.

▲ Closing suggestion:

Finish by reading Hebrews 12:2 together and pray, asking the Spirit to help the group "fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith."