

Message.

Living by faith means living with eternity in view. Abraham's faith allowed him to step out into the unknown, trusting the Caller more than the map. Sarah's faith believed God's promises even when they seemed impossible. These heroes of faith lived as "strangers and exiles," seeing this world as a temporary tent because they were looking for a permanent city built by God. Ultimately, faith means holding loosely to what God has given us and trusting him with what matters most, just as Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac, because our true hope is anchored not in the gifts of this life but in the faithfulness of God who can bring life from death. Let's remember to evaluate our thoughts and our schedules this week, surrendering what's temporary for what's eternal. *Faith lives today in light of eternity.* #bccBIGidea

Prayer.

Heavenly Father,
You are worthy of my faithful obedience. You are the Provider of hope eternal. Guide my thoughts as I read Your Word. May I see how I can live by faith in light of eternity.
Amen.

Scripture.

Hebrews 11:8-19

For more context on Abraham's life, see Genesis 12:1-3, 18:10-14, 22:1-19

Engage.

In what specific ways did Abraham's "faith" (v. 8) express itself as an act of obedience? How does his willingness to go "not knowing where he was going" challenge our tendency to seek security and control in our own lives?

In light of verse 10, what are the "foundations" or "cities" we often build our lives on that are temporary? What might it look like to prioritize the eternal over the temporal?

What are some examples of "tents" (v. 9) you live in today—comforts, possessions, or ambitions—that might be preventing you from pursuing a "better country" (v. 16)?

Sarah believed God was faithful "who had promised" (v. 11), even when the promise seemed impossible. Think about a promise from God you are waiting on. How does Sarah's example encourage you to trust God's faithfulness despite the delay?

Looking at verse 13, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as living as "strangers and exiles on the earth" (v. 13). What does it mean for a follower of Christ to live as a stranger in their own culture? How can we live this out practically?

Verse 16 says God is "not ashamed to be called their God." What does this statement imply about the kind of life that honors God? How does living with an eternal perspective bring glory to God?

Hebrews 11:17-19 highlights Abraham's ultimate test: his willingness to sacrifice Isaac. Why was this act of faith so significant? What "Isaac" might God be asking you to release in your own life to show that your ultimate hope is in Him and not in what He has given you?

For these cities. For all people.