



SESSION 4: THE CENTURION: A TRUSTING FAITH

1—WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR?

Don't even think about doing anything else before you flip to Hebrews 11:1.

What's something you're hoping for in the near future?

- ☐ A gooey, chocolate-chocolate chip sundae
- ☐ An autograph from your favorite musician or sports hero
- ☐ The girl or guy of your dreams to sit next to you in class
- ☐ Your teacher to forget the science test

Hard to choose, isn't it? There's one thing that all four options have in common: They're all temporary—here today and gone tomorrow.

Hebrews 11:1 gives us something to hope for that won't be gone tomorrow: our faith. It helps us be sure of God's presence and joy in this lifetime and confident of eternal life with Him after we die. Spend a few minutes asking God how you can have more faith and certainty in Him, even if He is invisible.

2—GIVE GOD THE BEST

If you like the biggest piece of pie, turn quickly to Hebrews 11:4.

It's pie time and your mom hands you the knife. *Bummer*, you think to yourself. You were really hoping that your mom would have given the knife to your younger brother, Christopher. That way he'd have to do the cutting, which meant, according to the family rule, "You-Cut-I-Choose," you'd get to choose the first piece of pie. But now you're stuck.

We're so quick to want the biggest piece of pie, the most whipped cream, the best slice of pizza. Abel wanted the best meat from the animal, but it wasn't for himself; it was for God. Even though he was murdered by his brother, Cain, his faith still speaks loudly today. He had faith that God would take care of him, so of course he could give God anything and everything that he had.

How can you give God your best today? If you have faith that He will take care of you, you can give Him every part of your life with no worries.

3—NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART

If you're someone who likes adventure movies, race to Hebrews 11:32-40.

Let's say your dad makes you choose to do one of the following. Which would be the worst choice?

- ☐ Cleaning a sewer without gloves
- ☐ Eating liver for dinner 17 days in a row
- ☐ Living in a room with a mouse for a month

None of these options are good, but at least none of them could cost your life! In Hebrews 11:32-40, we learn about all sorts of heroes from the Bible who had to live through *much* worse things—things that could have cost them their lives (and sometimes did). Yet even if they didn't immediately triumph over their immediate circumstances, every single one of them was blessed by God.

Maybe you're not in danger of being sawed in two or put in prison, but you're probably facing some tough things. Take a few minutes today to ask God to help you have the kind of faith that will help you in the midst of the hard stuff you're going through right now.

4—CAN HE REALLY DO ANYTHING?

Quick! Grab your Bible and flip to James 1:5-8.

"I'm a grasshopper. I'm a grasshopper." You're getting a little tired of your little brother wearing all green and hopping around the house, constantly chanting, "I'm a grasshopper. I'm a grasshopper." After a week of this, you finally ask him what he thinks he's doing. He tells you that in his Sunday School class, he read James 1:5-8, so he figures if he has *faith* that God can make him into a grasshopper, God will!

How would you answer your little brother? In one sense, of course, God can do anything, including change a human into a grasshopper. However, God only does things if they fit into *His* will and if they are good for us. As far as we know, there are no recorded instances of human-to-grasshopper conversions.

When you pray, do you *really* believe that God can do anything? Spend a few minutes thinking of all the amazing things God has done (just look outside at His creation and you're bound to get some ideas).

Today and tomorrow, try to remember these awesome things so that you'll be more confident that God can do anything!