



Sermon Growth Guide

February 9, 2025
God Faithfully Sustains
Hebrews 11:29-40

Key Verse: Hebrews 11:40

“Since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.”

Big Idea: God has a plan for all of his people together.

Foundations

With these verses, the writer of Hebrews completes his roll of the Old Testament heroes of faith. In chapter 12, he will begin to flesh out his purpose in reminding us about them. But in the meantime, he reveals that God has a plan for all of his people together.

God's purpose is to “make us perfect” together. This means that, through Jesus Christ, God is freeing us from the power of sin so that we can be resurrected with all of God's people throughout time into eternal life.

This means we need each other. We need the encouragement and wisdom from those who have gone before us in order to persevere in our faith and pursue the righteousness that is available to us in Christ. (Hebrews 12:1) We need one another now for the same purpose. And we need our collective witness and life in order to draw others into the life of Christ, whose mission was “to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10). We won't be made perfect together until all of God's people throughout time are assembled.

Even though we, unlike our Old Testament brothers and sisters, have received Christ, it still feel as if we do not always see the fruit of our labor as we wait for our final perfection at the end of all things. (Hebrews 11:39) But don't lose heart. We'll make it home together.

Understanding God's Word

Together read Hebrews 11:29-40.

Take some time to consider the final examples of faith and look up their stories in the Old Testament. How does their faith encourage you? Are you surprised by anyone in the list? Why do you think they were included?

Applying God's Word

The collective witness of the heroes points to both the triumphs and the sufferings of faith. How do you see each one playing out in your own lives?

What does it look like for your community to encourage and support one another as we persevere in our faith and pursue righteousness in Christ? Is there some way you could do this better?

Witnessing God's Word

2 Peter 3:9 says “The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

God is waiting for the full number of his people to come to Christ before he comes again, and we are part of God's mission to seek and to save the lost. If you know someone who needs Christ, begin praying for them and reaching out to them in love and friendship.