



# Sermon Growth Guide

**January 19, 2025**

**God Makes Himself Known**

**Hebrews 11:1-7**

**Key Verse:** Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.”

**Big Idea:** We are part of God’s eternal story through faith.

---

## Foundations

There is something a little surprising in these well-known verses about faith. Hebrews 11:3 says that we understand by faith that God created the “universe.” But the word for “universe” here is the Greek word “aionas,” which is usually translated as “ages,” or sometimes “forever” or “eternal.” It’s a reminder that God not only created the material world, but the “ages” in which we live. The writer of Hebrews is trying to help us focus on God’s work of creation and the story he is writing throughout time. And he’s telling us that through faith, we too become part of the story. The writer of Hebrews then illustrates this by cataloguing the faith of God’s people throughout time.

Faith is a key characteristic of the church. Through faith we put our trust in God, believing that he is there, and that he rewards all those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11:6) But that faith will automatically reveal itself in action. Abel, Enoch, and Noah (and many others to follow) all become witnesses to the grace of God through their faith. This witness comes both through the work of God in their lives and their response to God.

We in the church have the same opportunity as these heroes of faith. When our faith is revealed in action, we become part of God’s great story. We become witnesses to God’s grace, both in the age we live in now and in the age of eternal life to come. Through faith, we become part of God’s eternal story.

## Understanding God’s Word

Together, read Hebrews 11:1-7

Do you have a sense of the story that God is writing throughout the ages? Do you think you could tell someone the overarching story of Scripture in just a few minutes? What part does the faith of the people of God play in that story?

Consider looking at the backstory of Abel, Enoch, and Noah (Genesis 4:1-7; 5:21-24; 6:11-22). Does their faith in action point toward Christ in some way?

## Applying God’s Word

Think back to your discussion of God’s overarching story. What part of the story do you think we are in? What do you think your part of the story might be – in the past, now, or moving forward?

Can you point to some ways that your faith is revealed in action? Do your actions reveal faith in something other than God?

1 Corinthians 12:9 says faith is a gift from the Holy Spirit. Consider praying for one another for an increase in faith.

## Witnessing God’s Word

Matthew 5:14 says that we (the church) are the “light of the world.” Our faith together is part of our witness. Is there a ministry in our church or in our city where you feel called to put your faith into action?