



A Guide for Spiritual Formation

Text for the Week: Hebrews 11:39-12:3

Message for the Week: The Joy of Faithfulness

Sunday, November 10

Opening:

What is one low (a bad thing) and one high (a good thing) that happened to you this past week? Write them down and take turns sharing them with the others in your group.

Where have you seen the work of the Holy Spirit in your life this past week?

What people or things are you loyal / faithful to (athletes, sports teams, musicians, companies, etc.)?

Preparation:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with God to center and prepare yourself for your time with God today.

Read:

Read / Have two people in your group read [Hebrews 11:39-12:3](#) out loud.

(Clicking the link will bring you to multiple translations.)

As you read and/or listen to the text being read, circle, highlight, or underline what words, phrases, or ideas grabbed your attention and heart in these verses?

Write them down below and/or share them with those who are with you.

Respond / Reflect:

What does faithfulness mean? What does it mean to be faithful/loyal?

Where have you seen examples of faithfulness?

The fruit of the Spirit faithfulness flows from God's unwavering faithfulness and commitment to us. How has God been faithful to you?

How are you being faithful to God? What does this look like?

What is the "...joy that was set before..." Christ that enabled Christ to endure the cross?

What is the cost of faithfulness? Is there a cost to being faithful to God? Has faithfulness ever prevented or stopped you from doing something?

Take Away:

What is a main point or key message that you learned, understood, observed, or experienced that you are taking away with you from your group's reflections on the bible passage or your group's conversations today?

Prayer:

Spend time in prayer with/for the other people who are with you. Who in your group needs prayer today? Who in your group will you pray for?

Pray this prayer together:

Father, remind us again of your faithfulness to us, especially through the work of Jesus Christ through the cross. By Christ's example, may our faithfulness be so encouraged, that no matter what happens around us, we are able to keep our eyes on Jesus and follow the way that He lived.
AMEN

"Try It" - Putting our Faith into Action:

The key to being faithful to God is not losing sight of what Christ did/does for each of us (God's faithfulness to us). How are you going to keep sight of what Christ has done/is doing for you each day this week?

Galatians 5:22-26

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ
Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep
in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Hebrews 11:39-12:3 - New International Version

³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been
promised, ⁴⁰ since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would
they be made perfect.

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off
everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the
race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set
before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne
of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow
weary and lose heart.

Hebrews 11:39-12:3 - The Message

³⁹⁻⁴⁰ Not one of these people, even though their lives of faith were exemplary, got their hands on
what was promised. God had a better plan for us: that their faith and our faith would come together
to make one completed whole, their lives of faith not complete apart from ours.

12 ¹⁻³ Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans
cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No
extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on *Jesus*, who both began and finished this race
we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating
finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And
now he's *there*, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your
faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. *That* will
shoot adrenaline into your souls!