

LEARN

Read Hebrews 11:32-40. What stood out to you from the sermon on Sunday? What was most helpful, encouraging or challenging to your walk with Christ?

What is the point the writer is trying to make by stringing all these names together and by putting great victories alongside “torture” and being “sawn in two”?

(Faith is not based on your circumstances but your view of God – what I gain with God whether in death or life is better than anything gained apart from him. You can live by faith regardless of an outcome being “successful or not in the world’s eyes)

What do you learn about the genuineness of one’s faith as it relates to suffering and trials from these verses?

(Genuineness of faith has nothing to do with being spared from trials or suffering. Faith is often proven genuine in the crucible of suffering, showing our perspective is eternal and set on God not this life)

PRACTICE

Faith finds the promise of God in Christ better than what life can give. What are practical ways to demonstrate this in your daily life?

(How you pray says a lot about this, from what we pray for to giving thanks in all circumstances. It also shows in our pursuits, whether entirely for creature comforts or for using resources for serving and glorifying God)

Faith finds the promise of God in Christ better than what death can take. What is your first thought when you consider the reality of death? How should faith in God’s promise of eternal life impact those thoughts?

(Often it is fear, anxiety, or pushing the thoughts away. Spend time considering how transformational it is for a Christian to have certainty by faith that death is only a doorway to a “better life” [v.35] with God)

Faith finds the promise of God in Christ better than the wait. How can the annual time of advent (remembering the coming of Christ) be useful in helping us wait on the Lord?

(Once the promise is fully believed in our hearts, the wait is in it’s proper perspective: it is unbelievably short compared to eternity. Even when it feels long, we take hope and find peace in knowing Jesus has come once and is coming again)

CHANGE

What has your faith been like in times of trial or suffering? How do you need God to mature your faith so that you follow Jesus faithfully even in the hardest times?

(Leaders: The 2nd question is aiming at reflection of what you need to believe from God’s Word more than you currently do, or encouraging each other in the truth of the Word about suffering in faith)