

Small Group Discussion Guide – Read Hebrews 11:13-22

-How is our faith similar to the faith of these Old Testament saints described in vs. 13? What does it mean that they (and we) “all died in faith?” What are some promises that we, as Christians, have not yet seen fulfilled in this life?

-What does it mean that they “saw them and greeted them from afar?” How did they see “unseen” promises? How do we?

-What might be some ways that these heroes of the faith lived like “strangers and exiles on the earth?” What might be some ways we will and should feel like this as well?

-Read 1 Peter 2:11-12. How does Peter say a life of living as an “exile” actually helps in accomplishing God’s purposes? Where are you challenged to live more like a stranger and alien in this world? If so, how so?

-How will a longing for our “heavenly homeland” redirect our affections, preoccupations, and pursuits in this life? What might be some practical ways to better direct our attention there? What might be some things that are clouding your vision of that heavenly homeland that need to be removed from your life?

-How does the example of Abraham’s faith in his willingness to offer up his son, Isaac, as a sacrifice demonstrate his unwavering trust in God’s promise? How did he see “the promise” and “the command” in conflict with one another? Are there ever times like this that you experience?

-What was the exact nature of this “test” in Abraham’s life? How is this story more than simply a heart-wrenching story about a father’s willingness to sacrifice his son? What was really at stake here for Abraham, and for us?

-As you consider your own life, what have been some of the hardest things you have had to trust God for that you don’t yet see? What have you had to relinquish to His sovereign wisdom, goodness, and control in your most difficult moments?

-How does a passages like this help you to treasure Jesus more and long for your heavenly home?