

# Join Abraham's Pilgrimage of Faith (Hebrews 11 & 12)

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**Guidelines:** Protect confidentiality and follow the leader's prompts

## **Lectio Divina Rhythms/Process (Repeat three times):**

- (a) Read the Scripture passage ("Lectio")
- (b) Reflect on the focus question below ("Meditatio")
- (c) Respond in quiet prayer/journaling ("Oratio")
- (d) Rest in God's invitation for you then pray/share out loud if you want ("Contemplatio")

**Introduction:** Abraham is our father of faith. Faith is not "having the right answers." Faith is confidence in the Lord. Abraham shows us that faith is a journey of following an unseen God into a promised land. But that doesn't mean that faith is a blind leap in the dark! Biblical faith is based on *knowledge*, spiritual knowledge of the reality of God and his kingdom. Then by faith we step into the unknown holding the hand of heaven, proceeding step-by-step and enduring to the end.

**Opening Prayer:** "We walk by faith... not by sight" (inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:7).

## **Read Scripture: Hebrews 11 & 12 (MSG)**

11: <sup>1-2</sup>The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd.

<sup>3</sup>By faith, we see the world called into existence by God's word, what we see created by what we don't see...

<sup>8-10</sup>By an act of faith, Abraham said yes to God's call to travel to an unknown place that would become his home. When he left he had no idea where he was going. By an act of faith he lived in the country promised him, lived as a stranger camping in tents. Isaac and Jacob did the same, living under the same promise. Abraham did it by keeping his eye on an unseen city with real, eternal foundations—the City designed and built by God...

12: <sup>1-3</sup>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!

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? Meditate on that.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Enter into the Scripture passage. What do you feel? What specific situation in your life today relates? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reading:** What is God's personal invitation for you from the Scripture? You can write down what God may be saying to you or a prayer of thanks. Or rest quietly in God.