

# FAITH THAT IMPACTS A FUTURE GENERATION

DATE: SUNDAY, 21ST OF NOVEMBER 2021 | FAITH SERIES: PART 3

TALK  
IT OVER

## HEBREWS 11:23

*By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.*

## HEBREWS 11:1-2

*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.*

### NOTES FOR LEADERS:

Please don't forget the deadline for "Love in a gift pack" is Sunday, the 28th of November.

Love in a gift pack - formerly known as love in a backpack - is our annual outreach.

It is a great opportunity to show God's love in a practical way to children who may not receive a Christmas gift this year! Our target is 1100 gift packs, so there is plenty of opportunity for you to get your family, LifeGroups and friends involved!

Each gift pack needs to include just four items:

A packet of marshmallows

A box of biscuits

A pencil back

A pack of wax roll-up crayons

## START TALKING

1. What one thing from Sunday's message has played over in your mind this week?
2. Who was your favourite teacher at school and why?

## START THINKING

1. On Sunday, Jax said that God wants to fill our hearts with hope. Read Hebrews 11:1-2. How does the Bible idea of "hope" differ from a secular view of "hope"? What does the word "hope" mean to you?
2. In what ways does belonging to a LifeGroup help strengthen your faith? What does this say about the importance of Christian community?

## START SHARING

1. In Hebrews 11:23, when we read about Moses's parents, it doesn't even tell us their names! And yet, they were part of God's story, and their act of faith played a pivotal role in Moses's story. Who has played a pivotal role in your faith story? How have their "acts of faith" impacted your life journey?
2. Jax shared three things that God wants to do in our hearts:
  - a). He wants to give us eyes to really see people.
  - b). He wants to give us courage to step out in faith, make hard decisions and follow through on what we believe.
  - c). He wants to fill our hearts with hope.Which of these three points do you feel God is really working on in you? What is the next step of faith you need to take?

## START PRAYING

Lord, help us to intentionally pass on our faith to the next generation so that they will know You and the great work You have done.

If your group are parents/grandparents, you could spend some time praying for the children related to the members in your group.

## START DOING

As a church community, we have a mandate from God to look with eyes of faith at those around us. We get to encourage and blow wind on the plans and purposes that God has for them.

This week, spend some time prayerfully considering who the Holy Spirit is prompting you to encourage. Then step out in faith and share your message of encouragement with them.

# SUMMARY

## OF SUNDAY'S MESSAGE

This Sunday, in part three of our Faith series, Jax Wimble shared a message titled: "Faith that impacts future generations." Often, in our journey through life, we don't realise the impact and influence of our actions and words on the people around us. Jax focussed on the story of a couple whose actions impacted many lives in the generations that followed them...

*By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.* Hebrews 11:23.

We come across the beginning of Moses's story in Exodus, chapter 2. He's a well-known Bible character because he led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and through the desert for 40 years in their journey to the promised land.

Exodus 2 tells us that the Israelites were in slavery. The Egyptian Pharaoh was afraid because the Israelites were growing in numbers, and so, he decided to kill off all the baby boys.

But God had a plan.

### 1. God always has a plan.

God goes to great lengths to bring about His plans and purposes for our lives.

While Hebrews 11 is a chapter about heroes of faith, it's also about ordinary people who made mistakes and weren't perfect in any way; but they were part of God's story.

Last week, Steve spoke about Noah - the man who had the faith to build an ark! Yet soon after the floods disappear, Noah plants a vineyard, gets drunk, and completely loses the plot! But we don't focus on that, we focus on his faith; and the fact that God chose that imperfect man to be a part of His story.

In Hebrews 11:23, when we read about Moses's parents, it doesn't even tell us what their names were! And yet, they were part of God's story and a pivotal point in Moses's journey. But it's not really about Noah, or Moses, or Moses' parents... or us. We get to play a role in His story, but we should never forget that it's GOD'S story and HIS plans.

Hebrews 11:23 says that *'they hid Moses because they realized that he was no ordinary child'....*

How did they know that he was no ordinary child? What made Moses extraordinary? It was God's plan for His life and the fact that God wanted to use Moses to tell part of His story.

When we look at our lives and the lives of those around us with eyes of faith and get a glimpse of God's plans and purposes, we realise that not one of us is ordinary.

We each have a beautiful stamp of God's design and destiny on our lives. God has a plan; He is still telling His story through our lives...and He has designed us with a specific purpose in mind. We are beautifully, uniquely and wonderfully created to be part of God's plan, His story!

### 2. We get to be part of God's plan for others.

A few different people played a role in Moses's life and brought him to the point where he led God's people out of Egypt.

We read about Moses' parents who hid him; his sister, Miriam, who watched out for him and then asked if she could help find a Hebrew woman to nurse him; Pharaoh's daughter raised him as her own... They were all part of the plan, and they all played slightly different roles.

As a church community, we have a mandate from God to look with eyes of faith at those around us. We get to encourage and blow wind on the plans and purposes that God has for them. We can have an impact at any age or any stage of our lives. The key ingredient is faith - not our age, or skill set, or status, or Bible knowledge.

Some of the small, seemingly insignificant things we do today and decisions we make today have the potential to impact not just our lives but the lives of those around us.

What is our part in God's plan? How can we help others to grow, and to live out God's plans for their lives? What courageous acts of faith is God calling us to?

For those of us who are parents, what a responsibility we have to prioritise faith and the plans and purposes of God in our children's hearts. We get just a few short years to impact and influence our children's faith journey.

Are we parenting intentionally, asking God to show us what He wants for our children? (What is the 'God plan' that He has for them?) Do we involve God in the decisions we make for our children? God's number one aim for our children is not their comfort and happiness. He wants to grow their character, He wants to teach them how to lean on Him, and walk with Him....it's a challenge to parent with eyes of faith.

It's possible to parent without eyes of faith. It's possible to do life and to do business without faith. It's possible to live in the here and now, without realizing that we are part of a greater plan and that we were born for a great purpose!

Can you imagine the fear and anxiety surrounding Moses' birth. His parents wondering how they could keep him alive. The possibility that it might cost all of them their lives.

The Bible tells us that Moses' parents hid him, not because they didn't want him to die, but because they had a sense that he had a great purpose. God had a plan, and they wanted to be part of it, no matter what it cost.

### God wants to do three things in our hearts:

#### 1. He wants to give us eyes to really see people.

See them for who God has created them to be. When we interact with people do we see potential or do we find fault, criticize them because of their shortcomings?

#### 2. He wants to give us the courage to step out in faith, make hard decisions and follow through on what we believe.

#### 3. He wants to fill our hearts with hope.

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. *This is what the ancients were commended for.* Hebrews 11:1-2.

Sometimes, we've had a sense of God's plans, we've trusted and prayed and stepped out in faith, and the plan seems to have failed. And as hard as we look, we can't see any sign of God's plan in progress. He wants to fill our hearts with Hope. Not hope in the circumstances, but hope in the fact that it's His story and He is faithful.