



Obedient Faith | Hebrews 11:8-12

1. Think back over the past 7-10 days. Can you think of any specific occasions when you've had to exercise faith: *'Faith is not the absence of doubt but the willingness to trust God despite uncertainty.'* Are there any circumstances coming on the horizon for you which will demand you exercise faith? How are you feeling about these.
2. Share the headlines of what you know about Abraham's story captured in Genesis 11-25. Identify the times of doubt and faith. What strikes you as you stitch together the different parts of his (and Sarah's) story? Given what you've shared, does the writer to the Hebrews' eulogy about him surprise you about the way God is able to use ordinary people to achieve extra-ordinary things?
3. *Faith obeys even without full understanding.* Can you think of an occasion(s) when you've obeyed God without a detailed knowledge of what's ahead? How much does your personality help or hinder with this regard? *'God gives us a compass not a map.'* Discuss.
4. What do we learn about Abraham's general life perspective by reading Hebrews 11:8-12? Is it possible for Christians living in 21st Century Christchurch to live similarly? Why and how? Why not and how now? What are some ways we can live with an eternal perspective, like Abraham, instead of being overly focused on earthly security?
5. *Faith endures despite delays and difficulties.* Is there an area in your life where you feel like God's promise is delayed? How can Abraham's example encourage you to keep trusting? As you reflect on the past, has there been an occasion when you've 'helped God out' by trying to speed up His plans and purposes for your life?
6. *Faith is ready to believe the impossible.* How does Sarah's initial doubt about having a child compare to times when we struggle to believe God's promises? What does Abraham's and Sarah's story teach us about God's power to fulfil His promises, even when circumstances seem impossible?
7. Abraham's journey of faith wasn't perfect (he had doubts and failures). How does this encourage you when you struggle in your own faith journey? What practical steps can you take this week to grow in faith like Abraham? How can you encourage someone else in their faith journey based on what you've learned from Abraham's story?
8. Spend some time praying for yourself and others that God would continue the good work of growing/gifting your faith.



What did you discover about God in this passage?
What did you discover about people in this passage?
How will you commit to obey this passage this week?
With whom will you share what you have learned?

