

Daily Global Missions Conference Devotional

DAY ONE

By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead. Hebrews 11:4

READ: [Genesis 4:1-16](#)

In Genesis 4:3-6 we are told that Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD, but that Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. We are told that God was pleased with Abel's offering, but not with Cain's. But we are not told why.

It is possible that God accepted Abel's offering but not Cain's because Abel offered the very best of his produce as an act of worship to God, but that Cain did not bring the best of what he had. However, Hebrews 11:4 tells us that Abel offered his gift to God with faith, and that his faith is still speaking to us today. So we can be positive that Abel's faith made the difference.

REFLECT: What gift is God asking you to offer to him today? Do you need to ask for your faith to grow in order to be able to offer that gift?

PRAY:

- **Praise** the Lord for the faith of men like Henry 'Opukaha'ia and the early missionaries, who set out for Hawaii 200 years ago, and that their faith is still speaking to us today.
- **Ask** God to give you faith to do what he is calling you to do.

DAY TWO

By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death. "He could not be found, because God had taken him away." Before he was taken he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11:5

READ: [Genesis 5:21-24](#)

Genesis 5:22 states that Enoch walked with God for three hundred years. To walk with God implies a life of faith in which one has constant fellowship and communion with him. Enoch faithfully worshiped and pleased God for three hundred years - a very long time. We are not told what life challenges he faced during all those years, but there must have been

many. Yet he lived such a faithful life that he was taken to be with God without facing death - an honor which he shared only with Elijah (2 Kings 2:11).

REFLECT: What life challenges are you facing right now? How does Enoch's faithful life encourage you to meet and overcome them?

PRAY:

- **Praise** God for the faithful witness of the first missionaries to Hawaii, in spite of the challenges that they faced in adapting to a new land. Praise him for how the church they planted has flourished there.
- **Pray** that you can walk faithfully with God in the call that he has given to you for your life, being a faithful witness here in Boston or wherever God might call you next.

DAY THREE

By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith. Hebrews 11:7

READ: [Genesis 6:1-22](#)

In Genesis 6:11 we read that the earth was corrupt and full of violence. So God decided to put an end to all the people. Only Noah was found to be blameless, because he had walked faithfully with God. Amidst all the violence of his generation, he was called by God to build a boat, big enough for all kinds of animals to fit inside, as well as Noah's family. It must have taken him to some time to build such a big boat, and all the people who passed by must surely have mocked and jeered at him for taking such effort to do what looked like a completely crazy thing. But, we are told in Genesis 6:22 that Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

REFLECT: Have you ever felt called by God to do something completely countercultural; something that your friends and neighbors cannot understand and even laugh at you for doing? How did your faith sustain you during that time, even as Noah's faith sustained him?

PRAY:

- **Praise** the Lord for the first Hawaiian believers, who did something completely opposed to their cultural in believing the gospel.
- **Ask** the Lord to show you how you can live a life that is countercultural in the midst of Boston, obeying whatever the Lord commands you to do, as Noah did.

DAY FOUR

By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. Hebrews 11: 8-10

READ: [Genesis 12:1-20](#)

Genesis 12 tells of the promise that God gave Abraham, to make him into a great nation, and to become a blessing to all the peoples on the earth. But in order to receive these promises Abraham had to set out with his wife and family and all that he possessed, and travel to somewhere completely unknown. The scripture does not tell us how Abraham felt about all this, but the end of chapter 12 tells the story of how Abraham had to leave his new land for a while and go to Egypt. Abraham was so afraid about the journey to Egypt that he asked his wife, Sarai to lie for him and say she was his sister. That fear was one of the hardships that Abraham faced in obeying God's call to him to leave his own country.

REFLECT: How do you think that you would feel if you were told, like Abraham, to leave your home and travel to a place you had never been before? What do you think gave Abraham the courage to do this?

PRAY:

- **Praise** God for giving the missionaries to Hawaii the faith to leave their own country and go to a place they had never seen before, so that Hawaiian people could participate in the blessings that God promised through Abraham.
- **Ask** the Lord if he is calling you to leave your own comfort zone, step out in faith to do something new, or go to a different place, in order to spread the gospel--God's plan to bless the nations.

DAY FIVE

By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Hebrews 11:11

READ: [Genesis 18:1-15](#)

In Genesis 18:1-15 we read how the LORD appeared to Abraham and Sarah at their tent. The LORD then told Abraham that at that time next year, he would return to them and Sarah would have a son. Sarah laughed to herself because she knew she was too old to bear a son. But the LORD heard her and asked her why she had laughed. "Is anything too hard for the LORD?" he said. At that time in the next year, Sarah bore a son for Abraham, just as the LORD had promised. In this way God began to fulfill his promise that Sarah would be the mother of nations (Genesis 17:15-16).

REFLECT: God told Sarah that nothing was too hard for him. This is similar to what the angel Gabriel told Mary when he came to announce the birth of Jesus to her, "For with

God nothing will be impossible” (Luke 1:37). Is there something in your life today that you are afraid to trust God for, because it seems impossible? Talk with God about it.

PRAY: Praise the Lord for the way He has been faithful in the life of Park Street Church for more than two hundred years, and in the vision the church has to send out missionaries to the ends of the earth. Ask God what your part in this should be in the future.

DAY SIX

By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death. Hebrews 11:17

READ: [Genesis 22:1-14](#)

When God told Abraham to sacrifice his only son Isaac in Genesis 22, the scripture does not record how Abraham felt. It only tells us that he obeyed God. Yet if we put ourselves in Abraham’s place, we can acknowledge what a scary and heart-rending thing this must have been for him. But we read in 22:5 that Abraham told his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. **We** will worship and then **we** will come back to you.” This statement shows Abraham’s faith, that he expected both he and Isaac to return. He also told Isaac that God himself would provide the lamb for the burnt offering (verse 8). Still, Abraham had bound Isaac on the altar and taken up the knife in his hand before the angel of the LORD called out to him and told him to stop. This shows his complete obedience to God, even when being tested in so severe a fashion. It shows his faith in action.

REFLECT: God does not usually test us in the way that he tested Abraham. But there are times when he tests our faith through difficult circumstances and we must make hard choices. Has there been a time in the past when you faced a hard choice or are you facing such a choice right now? How did your faith sustain you as you were tested in the past? How can it help you now?

PRAY: Praise the Lord that he is with us even as we have to make hard choices. Pray for a Park Street missionary whom you know, that the Lord would be guiding them in whatever difficult choices face them in their ministry at this time.

DAY SEVEN

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff. Hebrews 11:20-21

READ: [Genesis 27:25-29; 49:1-28](#)

The words of blessing spoken by Isaac to Jacob in Genesis 27, repeated God’s promise to Abraham in Genesis 12, “I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses you I will

curse.” Other words, which Isaac spoke in this blessing, are repeated in future chapters, “Your father’s sons will bow down to you,” is part of Jacob’s blessing to Judah in Genesis 49. Isaac’s words, “May nations serve you and peoples bow down to you” are repeated in Psalm 72:1: “May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him.” In the presence of the LORD, both Isaac and Jacob spoke prophetic words by faith, which pointed to the coming Messiah and his reign.

REFLECT: Consider the words that you will speak to your family, friends and coworkers this week. How will your faith and the promptings of the Holy Spirit direct you to say words, which will bless and encourage them?

PRAY:

- **Praise** the Lord that He has given us his prophetic word, which directs our path each day.
- As you spend time reading His word, **ask** the Lord to allow you to be a blessing to other people and a witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

DAY EIGHT

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

READ: [Exodus 1:1-2:10](#)

Moses, the greatest prophet of Israel, the one to whom God entrusted the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai, also had a remarkable family. They were remarkable for their faith and trust in God. In Exodus chapter 1 we read that the king of Egypt commanded the Hebrew midwives to let the Hebrew baby boys die as they delivered them. Because the midwives feared God, they did not allow this to happen. But the king of Egypt was determined and issued more orders for his people to throw all the baby boys into the Nile. In the face of this, Moses’ parents first hid him for three months, and then when he grew too big to be hidden, they devised a plan to save him. They placed him in a basket on the Nile River and had his sister Miriam wait to see who would come to rescue him. When the king’s daughter came and felt sorry for the baby boy in the basket, Miriam was ready with a good suggestion of who should nurse him. Thus Moses’ own mother had the privilege of nursing her child.

Because of the faith of Moses’ parents in a difficult situation, Moses grew up in the palace of the king of Egypt, and was educated in the ways of the Egyptians. Later, this knowledge would serve him well for the task to which God called him - to appear before the king of Egypt with God’s message for him, and to lead the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt and into the land that God had promised to give them. God used the faith of Moses’ parents to continue to carry out his covenant plan for the nation of Israel, the plan that he had first started to put into effect when he called Abraham to leave his own country and travel to a new land.

REFLECT: To put your child in a basket and let him float on the river must have taken great determination, courage and faith—faith that God would look after him and provide for him. Think about your own family relationships. Is there something God is asking you to do in relating to your family that takes courage and faith? How does this relate to God’s call in your own life to be a witness to his plan of salvation?

PRAY: Missionaries face great challenges in their family life, especially in knowing how best to educate their children in a foreign country. Pray for the families of Park Street Church missionaries, that God would provide the right educational experience for each of them.

DAY NINE

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.

Hebrews 11:24-28

READ: [Exodus 3: 1-12; 4:10-17](#)

Hebrews 3:5 tells us that Moses was faithful as a servant in God’s house, bearing witness to what would be spoken by God in the future. Think of the some of the awesome things that God allowed Moses to do by faith. He appeared before Pharaoh, king of Egypt and pronouncing God’s plagues on all the Egyptians until Pharaoh finally let them leave. He led the Israelites through the Red Sea on dry land, holding up his hand over the sea so that they could cross over. Later he ascended Mount Sinai and spoke with God and received the Ten Commandments. Moses led them to the very edge of the promised land.

We might think that we could never have faith like Moses. Yet Moses also showed his weaknesses. When God first told Moses to go and speak to Pharaoh (Exodus 3) Moses demurred quite a few times and told God to send someone else (Exodus 4:13). Though God was angry with Moses for not trusting him in that case, yet he sent Aaron, Moses’s brother, to help him speak to Pharaoh. Later, when Moses was camped with the Israelites in the wilderness, Jethro his father-in-law came to him and told him that he could not settle all the disputes of the Israelites by himself (Exodus 18). He urged Moses to delegate some of his authority to others, who would then bring the disputes to Moses. These pictures of Moses’ life and his weaknesses remind us of God’s promise recorded in 2 Corinthians 12: 9. God said to Paul “My grace is sufficient for you , for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

REFLECT: Is there something that God is asking you to do that you feel is too hard for you?

PRAY:

- **Ask** God to show you how his power is made perfect in weakness.
- **Ask** God to strengthen all those at Park Street Church whom he is calling to be witnesses for him both in Boston and overseas, so that they have faith to hear his call and trust to receive it.

DAY TEN

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land, but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned. Hebrews 11:29

READ: [Exodus 14:1-31](#)

After the death of all the firstborn sons of Egypt, Moses led the people out of Egypt. They saw the mighty hand of the Lord, how he guided them on their journey by the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night. They were safe! So how terrified they were when they were camping by the sea and looked back and saw Pharaoh and all his army pursuing them. Fear overtook them again and they castigated Moses for bringing them out of Egypt only to meet their end in the wilderness. But Moses had a wonderful answer for them. He said "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you have only to be still."(Exodus 14:13-14)

Moses could say this with confidence because God had already told Moses of his plan: "I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord." (Exodus 14:4) And when the Israelites were willing to listen to Moses and move forward, God did protect them from the Egyptians. His pillar of cloud moved to stand between the Israelites and the Egyptians, so that all night long the Israelites were protected, while he sent a wind to dry up the sea so that the Israelites could pass through. But before they saw the deliverance that God brought them, they had to pass through the terrifying moment when they thought Pharaoh's army would overtake them. This was so that God's greater purpose could be fulfilled, bringing glory to himself by his complete defeat of Pharaoh and his army.

REFLECT: Have you ever had an experience in which many things went wrong and disaster seemed to be overtaking you, only to see later that God had brought glory to himself by how he rescued you? How did this experience strengthen your faith in the mighty power of God?

Is there an issue in your life right now where you must be still and let the Lord fight for you?

PRAY:

- **Pray** that God will continue his mighty acts through the witness of members of Park Street Church, both here in Boston and overseas through Park Street missionaries, whom he has called to serve him.

- **Pray** that whatever challenges missionaries may be facing, they would remember to be still and let the Lord fight the battle for them.

DAY ELEVEN

*By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days.
Hebrews 11:30*

READ: [Joshua 6:1-27](#)

When the Lord told Joshua that he would be the leader to succeed Moses and bring the Israelites into the promised land, He had encouraging words for Joshua in this new role: “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this book of the law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:7-9).

With this command in mind, Joshua sent people to spy out Jericho, the first city they must conquer in the battle to enter the Promised Land. The Lord protected these men through the help of Rahab the prostitute. When the spies returned to Joshua, they told him “The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us” (Joshua 2:24). But the Lord wanted to make sure that the Israelites knew that they could not take Jericho by their own power. So he commanded them to march around the city walls for six days, with priests carrying the covenant ark in front of the army as a sign of the Lord’s presence. Then on the seventh day, after they had circled the city seven times, they shouted and the city walls collapsed, so that they could march straight in and conquer the city. In this way, it was clear that it was not by their own military power that they had taken the city, but by the might of the LORD. Yet they had to exercise faith in their marching around the city, not using any weapons but relying on the power of God, symbolized by the priests carrying the ark of the Lord.

REFLECT: Joshua and the Israelites demonstrated their faith by beginning the battle for the Promised Land in a very unusual way. They blew trumpets rather than using weapons of war. In what ways is God asking you to live a countercultural life in Boston so that you can demonstrate your faith in him and be true to the gospel? In what ways can you step out in faith this week to witness to the work of God in your life, as Joshua and the Israelites did in their march around the walls of Jericho?

PRAY:

- **Ask** God to give you a strong faith and not to be afraid or discouraged in your witness for him.
- **Pray** for leaders at Park Street Church as they consider the most effective ways to reach out to the neighborhood around Park Street Church with the gospel message.

DAY TWELVE

By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. Hebrews 11:31

READ: [Joshua 2:1-24](#)

When Joshua was ready to begin the conquest of the Promised Land, he sent out spies to discover the situation in Jericho, the first city against which they would fight. The two men entered the house of a prostitute called Rahab. She was likely an innkeeper as well, and her house would be a logical place for two strangers to find lodging for the night. Her house was built right into the city wall, near the place where the two spies would have entered the city. Their presence in her house was reported to the king's people, and she was ordered by the king to give up the Israelite men. However, she had already hidden them up on her roof. She protected them because she had heard of the mighty deeds that the Lord had done in bringing the Israelites through the Red Sea. She told the two men, "When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below" (Joshua 2:11). The awe-inspiring deeds of the Lord in protecting the Israelites from their enemies led Rahab to make this declaration of faith. Her faith led her to protect the two Israelite men, and also to request that the Israelites would spare her family when they conquered the city of Jericho. In faith, she hung a red cord out from the window of her house in the city wall, so that the Israelites would see it and rescue her relatives when they entered the city. Because of her faith in the might and power of Israel's God, she was willing to ally herself with them, an invading nation, rather than with her own kindred. Her faith was rewarded when Joshua ordered the two men to bring Rahab and her family out to safety, before they burned the city (Joshua 6:22-23).

REFLECT: Can you think of a time when you have been awe struck over the mighty acts of God in your life or in the life of someone you know? How has this strengthened your faith and inspired you to act more boldly in your daily life and in your witness for the Lord? Does Rahab's boldness in trusting in the LORD God and hiding the spies inspire you to act boldly for the Lord in some way in the coming week?

PRAY:

- **Praise** the Lord for the mighty deeds he has done throughout history and in your life as well.
- **Pray** for Park Street church missionaries all over the world, that their faith would enable them to act with boldness to witness for God in whatever situation they are in right now.

DAY THIRTEEN

What more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets. Hebrews 11:12

READ: [Judges 6:1-7:25](#)

Gideon lived in the time when the Judges ruled Israel. He was just a young man when Midianite people raided the land of Israel, ruining the crops so that there was not enough for either people or animals to eat. The Lord called Gideon, while he was threshing wheat in a wine press, in order to hide it from the Midianites. The Lord called Gideon to go in the strength that he had and rescue the Israelites from the power of the Midianites (Judges 6:14).

Gideon's answers to the Lord show that his faith was not very strong at first. He began by making excuses, asking God, "How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my family." The Lord assured Gideon that he would be with him, so that Gideon would be able to do what he was called to do. Then Gideon asked for a sign that it was really the Lord who was talking to him. God answered his request and gave him a sign, by causing fire to come up out of a rock and consume the offering that Gideon had brought. Gideon seemed satisfied by this sign and did as the Lord commanded him. He tore down his father's altar to the god Baal. But he did it at night rather than in the day, because he was afraid of his family and the townspeople (Judges 6:27). Gideon's faith was still somewhat lacking.

Later Gideon asked God for another sign before he went to fight the Midianites - the sign of the fleece that was wet, while the ground around it was dry. When God was gracious to him and did this sign for him, Gideon asked for yet another sign - that the fleece would be dry and the ground would be covered with the morning dew. God was gracious to Gideon and answered this request as well. Then Gideon went out to defeat the Midianites, using only the three hundred men that the Lord had shown him. That way it was clear that God's power rather than the power of Gideon and the Israelites had defeated the Midianites.

Throughout the story of Gideon and his battle with the Midianites, God shows his grace to Gideon by patiently granting his requests for more proofs of God's favor and power. God used Gideon in a mighty way in spite of Gideon's imperfect faith. This can encourage us, as we consider our own imperfect faith. Even though we may feel imperfect in faith, God still wants to use us in his mission for the world.

REFLECT: Is God calling you to do something that you are afraid to do? Think about how God showed his mighty power by enabling Gideon and three hundred men to overcome the whole army of the Midianites.

PRAY:

- **Ask** God to encourage you through this example of his power and might. Then, step out in faith to do what he is showing you.
- **Pray** that the people of Park Street Church, in Boston and in their missions around the world, would be bold witnesses to the gospel message of salvation, by faith.

DAY FOURTEEN

What more shall I say? I do not have time to tell you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets. Hebrews 11:32

READ: [Judges 4:1-24](#)

There was a period during the time of the Judges, when Deborah, a prophet, was leading Israel. At that time the Canaanites were harassing Israel. Sisera, the commander of their army, had oppressed the Israelites for twenty years (Judges 4:3). So Deborah called Barak, who was from Naphtali, and told him, "The LORD, the God of Israel commands you, 'Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali, and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. I will lead Sisera... with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands'" (Judges 4:7).

Barak, however, was unwilling to do as Deborah had told him unless Deborah herself went with him. Deborah agreed but prophesied, "Because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman." And it did turn out that way. Barak and his troops pursued Sisera's army and defeated them, but Sisera fled and managed to escape. He took refuge in a woman's tent, and that woman, Jael, killed Sisera.

Though Barak at first hesitated to fulfill Yahweh's command, given him through Deborah, he did not hesitate at the crucial moment, but advanced with his army against Sisera and routed him. Perhaps this is why the writer to the Hebrews listed Barak as the hero rather than Deborah or Jael, the woman who drove a tent peg through Sisera's temple. Barak gained a significant victory for Israel. We can be encouraged that, though Barak hesitated when Deborah first prophesied of the Lord's calling to him, he is listed as a hero of faith. This shows us that the Lord is gracious and uses us for his good purposes in spite of our hesitations. He looks into our hearts and gives us opportunity to grow in faith as we listen to him.

REFLECT: Think about all the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11. How do their lives and the faith that they showed by their actions encourage you? Is there some action that the Lord is asking you to take in response?

PRAY:

- **Pray** that we as a church would be confident in faith and step out boldly in our witness to the gospel message.
- **Pray** also that God would continue to call missionaries from Park Street Church to share the gospel in all the places, where people still have not heard it.