

Hebrews 11 choral reading

Based on Hebrews 11 and 12:1-3

Cast: Leader 1, Leader 2, Female voice 1, Female voice 2, VOG (voice of God), All

Note: Larger groups can be divided into 4 sections and each section take a part (1-4) with entire group doing part 5.

Part 1

LEADER 1: Now faith is the reality of what is hoped for

LEADER 2: the proof of what is not seen.

ALL: Our ancestors won God's approval by faith

LEADER 1: By faith we understand that the universe was created by God's command

ALL: so that what is seen has been made from things that are not visible.

LEADER 2: By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain did.

ALL: By faith he was approved as a righteous man

LEADER 1: because God approved his gifts, and even though he is dead

ALL: he still speaks through his faith.

LEADER 2: By faith Enoch was taken away so he did not experience death

LEADER 1: and he was not to be found because God took him away.

ALL: For prior to his removal he was approved, since he had pleased God.

LEADER 2: Now without faith it is impossible to please God

LEADER 1: for the one who draws near to Him must believe that He exists

ALL: and rewards those who seek Him.

LEADER 1: By faith Noah, after he was warned about what was not yet seen and motivated by godly fear

ALL: By faith Noah built an ark to deliver his family.

LEADER 2: By faith he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

Part 2

LEADER 1: By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and went out to a place

ALL: he was going to receive as an inheritance.

LEADER 2: He went out, not knowing where he was going.

ALL: By faith he stayed as a foreigner in the land of promise

LEADER 1: living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, coheirs of the same promise.

ALL: For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations

LEADER 1: whose architect and builder is God.

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FEMALE VOICE 2: By faith even Sarah herself,

FEMALE VOICE 1: when she was unable to have children

ALL: received power to conceive offspring

FEMALE VOICE 2: even though she was past the age,

ALL: since she considered that the One who had promised was faithful.

FEMALE VOICE 1: Therefore from one man—in fact, from one as good as dead

ALL: came offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven

FEMALE VOICE 2: and as innumerable as the grains of sand by the seashore.

ALL: These all died in faith without having received the promises

FEMALE VOICE 1: but they saw them from a distance, greeted them

ALL: and confessed that they were foreigners and temporary residents on the earth.

Part 3

LEADER 1: Now those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

LEADER 2: If they were thinking about where they came from

ALL: they would have had an opportunity to return.

LEADER 1: But they now desire a better place—a heavenly one.

LEADER 2: Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God

ALL: for He has prepared a city for them.

LEADER 1: By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac.

ALL: He received the promises and he was offering his unique son

LEADER 2: the one it had been said about

VOG: Your seed will be traced through Isaac.

LEADER 1: He considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead

ALL: and as an illustration, he received him back.

LEADER 2: By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

LEADER 1: By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph

ALL: and he worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.

LEADER 2: By faith Joseph, as he was nearing the end of his life,

ALL: mentioned the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions concerning his bones.

Part 4

LEADER 1: By faith, after Moses was born, he was hidden by his parents for three months

ALL: because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they didn't fear the king's edict.

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LEADER 2: By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter

ALL: and chose to suffer with the people of God rather than to enjoy the short-lived pleasure of sin.

LEADER 1: For he considered the reproach because of the Messiah to be greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt

ALL: since Moses' attention was on the reward.

LEADER 2: By faith he left Egypt behind, not being afraid of the king's anger

ALL: for Moses persevered as one who sees Him who is invisible.

LEADER 1: By faith he instituted the Passover and the sprinkling of the blood

ALL: so that the destroyer of the firstborn might not touch the Israelites.

LEADER 2: By faith they crossed the Red Sea as though they were on dry land.

ALL: When the Egyptians attempted to do this, they were drowned.

LEADER 1: By faith the walls of Jericho fell down

ALL: after being encircled by the Israelites for seven days.

LEADER 2: By faith Rahab the prostitute received the spies in peace

ALL: and didn't perish with those who disobeyed.

Part 5

LEADER 1: And what more can I say? Time is too short for me to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets

ALL: who by faith conquered kingdoms

LEADER 2: administered justice

ALL: obtained promises

LEADER 1: shut the mouths of lions

ALL: quenched the raging of fire

LEADER 2: escaped the edge of the sword

ALL: gained strength after being weak

LEADER 1: became mighty in battle

ALL: and put foreign armies to flight.

FEMALE VOICE 2: Women received their dead—they were raised to life again.

LEADER 2: Some men were tortured, not accepting release

ALL: so that they might gain a better resurrection

LEADER 1: and others experienced mockings and scourgings

ALL: as well as bonds and imprisonment.

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LEADER 2: They were stoned, they were sawed in two

ALL: they died by the sword

LEADER 1: they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, destitute, afflicted, and mistreated.

ALL: The world was not worthy of them.

LEADER 2: They wandered in deserts and on mountains

ALL: hiding in caves and holes in the ground.

LEADER 1: All these were approved through their faith

ALL: but they did not receive what was promised

LEADER 2: since God had provided something better for us

ALL: so that they would not be made perfect without us.

FEMALE VOICE 2: Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us

ALL: let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us.

LEADER 1: Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us

ALL: keeping our eyes on Jesus

FEMALE VOICE 1: the source and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that lay before Him

ALL: endured a cross and despised the shame and has sat down at the right hand of God's throne.