

MAIN POINT

God desires faith to characterize the lives of His people.

INTRODUCTION

Are you prone to taking risks? Why or why not? What is the biggest risk you have ever taken? What influenced you to do it? What was the outcome?

Does your opinion about risk say anything about the way you view faith? Why or why not?

Some people confuse taking risks with having faith. Risks generally have no basis for success but faith is characterized by assurance that comes from trusting God. Faith is a biblical concept in which we trust in God with all of our lives, including our future. Faith, more than anything else, is what God is looking for to characterize the lives of His people.

DISCUSSION

> **READ HEBREWS 10:35-11:1-7.**

Complete the following sentence: "Faith is"

What does your answer reveal about the nature of faith?

Since we have confidence that God has the power to create something good out of nothing, what concerns in your life do you need to turn over to Him, and in the process exercise the faith that pleases Him?

What is the foundation for Christian faith? What other foundations do people try to use for faith? What happens when they do not work out?

How do your past experiences or the experiences of others affect your faith?

How did Abel, Enoch, and Noah demonstrate faith according to these verses?

Who are some New Testament-age "heroes of faith" (including from modern times) that you would include on a "Hall of Faith" list?

What do your offerings reveal about your faith in God?

Who are the Abels, Enochs, and Noahs in your life? Who has been a model of faith for you?

How are you demonstrating faith to others? Is it a positive or negative demonstration?

According to verse 6, what does it take to have real faith? Based on this, how real is your faith?

APPLICATION

What is one area of your life where God is calling you to exercise faith right now? How will you respond?