

## Those who have gone before us. Hebrews 12:1 - 3



When preparing to traverse the giant suspension bridge of faith that is strung across the chasm of the great unknown, it's good to know that there are others who have crossed over before us.

Hebrews chapter 11 records the names and stories of some of our ancient faithful forerunners. Here we can read about Noah, who God instructed to build a giant boat in the middle of dry land. We are told about Abraham, who left his home and family in search of an unseen destination. We meet Rahab, the foreign prostitute, who risked her own life to protect two Israelite spies, because she feared their God more than her own countrymen. However it's important to understand that none of these ancient Bible heroes ever reached the other end of their faith journey, at least not during their own lifetimes. Like Moses, they only saw God's promises to them from afar. This is because all of them lived before the time of Jesus Christ: The author and perfecter of our faith.

1. How is faith defined in Hebrews 11:1?
2. Hebrews 11 is a record of our ancient forerunners in the faith. Read through the stories of some of these faithful ones. Do you feel a connection with any of these people?
3. Hebrews 11:39 - 40 tells us that these people were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what they had been promised. How will they finally receive their promised reward together with us?
4. Read Hebrews 12:1. How does reading about these forerunners encourage you in the 'the race'?
5. How does running the race with other believers help you?
6. Read Hebrews 12:2 - 3. Explain why Jesus is the ultimate author and perfecter of the faith of all believers, across time and space.