

# Crossway Life Group, Week of February 2

See sermon notes on [CMC's webpage](#) for background information

## Community

---

Take time to share and pray for each other's concerns and joys.

## Scripture: Hebrews 11:8-10. Sermon: "Designed and Built by God"

---

### Reading & Discussing Scripture

1. How could hope for something in the future ruin how we live today? How could our current experience today ruin our hope for the future?
2. **Overview.** Our church celebrates the Lord's Table once a month. We focus on different emphases of the Gospel each time. Last Sunday we focused on heaven: the hope of the perfect Kingdom restored. To learn more about the Christian hope of heaven, we studied the story of Abraham, who lived with great faith and action in relationship with God as he looked forward to fully experiencing God's promises.
3. **Background:** The story of Abraham is the beginning of God's specific plan of rescuing humanity. God commanded Abraham to go to a new land (Israel) that God promised to give to his descendants, but not Abraham himself. Abraham believed and went, but never owned any land ...except a burial plot. His son Isaac and grandson Jacob lived the same way. After that, the family lived 400 years as strangers, even slaves, in a foreign land (Egypt). God eventually brought them back to the Land of Promise 500 years after the promise was given. The writer of Hebrews draws lessons from his life of faith...
4. **Read Hebrews 11:8-10.** Compare Abraham's actual experience with what he hoped for. What are the characteristics of "tents"? What are the characteristics of a "city with foundations", especially a city whose "architect and builder is God?" How is Abraham's journey of faith similar to a Christian's experience? What encouragement can we take from Abraham's story?
5. **Read Revelation 21:2-3.** How does this vision of heaven strengthen your hope today?
6. **Read Colossians 1:3-6.** Do you experience what the Colossian Christians experienced: that your "faith and love spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven"? Why or why not?
7. Do you have any other questions about the passage or the sermon?

### The Big Idea

**God's promises for our glorious future of living with God lead us to life-filled anticipation today**

#### Two errors Christians can make...

1) Hope for tomorrow makes us stop living today...

*Making effort to grow as Christians. Valuing God's wonderful creation. Courageously loving all people*

2) Today makes us stop hoping for tomorrow...

*If today seems bad, we can be afraid to hope. If today seems good, why hope for Christ's return?*

### Application & Reflection Questions

8. When are you tempted to stop genuine and enthusiastic living in this life?
9. When are you tempted to stop hoping for our life forever with God?
10. How is the hope of our glorious future in Christ and the new heaven and new earth shaping your life today?
11. Where do you tend to see just brokenness instead of God's promises to bring great glory in it? How can fellow life group members or others in your life help you live today based on that future glory?

## Growing in Cultural Understanding

---

Christians, like Abraham, are called to live meaningfully as foreigners on this earth as we wait eagerly for the promises of heaven. Sometimes we experience being foreign because of the passport we carry. Sometimes we experience it because of a disconnect between our life experience and our values from the culture and expectations around us. How much, and in what ways, have you experienced living as a foreigner? How has that affected you? Who else in your life has experienced this or is experiencing it, whether in deeper or lesser ways than you? How can you encourage them? How can you learn from them? And how can these things help you better understand the Christian journey?

## Serving beyond ourselves

---

*What are ways that your group can be for the benefit of people beyond yourselves?*

Please **pray for our church's nominating committee** as they consider the people who have been recommended by the congregation.

## Hebrews 11:8-10 (New International Version)

### Abraham's faith in action

<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

## Revelation 21:2-4. (New International Version)

<sup>2</sup> I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. <sup>4</sup> 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

## Colossians 1:3-6 (New International Version)

<sup>3</sup> We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup> because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— <sup>5</sup> the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.