INTRODUCTION

* What does "The just shall live by faith" look like?
* In Hebrews 11 we have the Biblical definition of faith: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Faith is where what we consider abstract meets "reality." It is our faith which God uses to reprove people of heavenly practical matters (reality!) that are not visible to them. What we believe will be evidenced in what we do!
* Last week we saw how faith in the existence of God and His promise to reward those who seek Him was evidenced in the lives of Abel, Enoch and Noah.
* Also last week, in considering the testimony of Creation and the Flood, we looked at 2 Peter 3:3-6. In it further context, we see that Peter was warning of the judgment to come just as Noah was warning of the judgment to come. As Noah, we are called to live by faith as a testimony to those who are around us.
* Today, we see the evidence that was portrayed in the lives of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

INSTRUCTION

I. THE EXPLANATION OF FAITH

A. The Context: Faith IS The New and Living Way! (cf. Hebrews 10:4, 12-14, 19-20, 35-38)
1. FAITH IS COMING TO GOD THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS AND NOT WORKS OF THE LAW (cf. Gal 3:3-7,11-12)
2. FAITH IS THE RIGHTEOUS PLAN OF GOD AND AN ACT OF HIS GRACE (cf. Romans 3:21-28)

B. The Concept: Faith IS Where Abstract meets Reality! ... the Bible clearly teaches that "Faith" is the ultimately reality! ... it is not "abstract"
1. FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR ... *It is THE THING that you are entrusting your very eternal being on!*
2. FAITH IS THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN ... evidence (ελεγχος - reproof); things not seen ... "things" (πραγμα - practical matters/affairs)

II. THE EVIDENCE OF FAITH

A. By Faith The Elders Obtained A Good Testimony (v. 2; cf. Proverbs 27:21) ... Literally, "Were witnessed of ..."

B. By Faith We Understand Creation! (v. 3; cf. Genesis 1)
1. WE CAN COMPREHEND CREATION THROUGH OBSERVATION (cf. Romans 1:18-21; 2 Peter 3:3-6)
2. THE DOCTRINE OF CREATION
   a. God Created The World Through His Word ... He Spoke Into Existence The Knitting of the World
   b. God Created The World Out of That Which Was Not Visible

C. By Faith Abel Offered A Better Gift (v. 4; cf. Genesis 4:1-10) ... 1. THE MAGNITUDE ... and 2. PERPETUITY OF HIS TESTIMONY

D. By Faith Enoch Was Translated (v. 5; μετατιθημι - change places - also used in LXX; cf. Gen 5:21-24; 1 Cor 15:50-53)

E. By Faith We Diligently Seek God (v. 6) 1. IT IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD W/O FAITH 2. GOD REWARDS THOSE WHO SEEK HIM

F. By Faith Noah Prepared An Ark (v. 7; cf. Genesis 6-9)
1. HIS OBEDIENCE WAS A RESULT OF FAITH ... 2. A CONDEMNATION TO THE WORLD

G. By Faith Abraham and Sarah (v. 8-19; cf. Genesis 12-22)

1. THE P_____ OF THEIR FAITH
   a. They F_____ YHWH without knowing where YHWH was leading! (v. 8-9)
   b. They B_____ YHWH could give them a child when Sarah was old (v. 11-12)
   c. Abraham O_____ YHWH Isaac as a Sacrifice (v. 17-19)
2. THE F_____ OF THEIR FAITH
   a. They W_____ the City of God (v. 10,15)
   b. They W_____ the Promises of God (v. 13)
   c. They C_____ Strangers and Foreigners on the Earth (v. 13; cf. John 17:15-16)
3. THE R_____ OF THEIR FAITH
   a. They S_____ God's Miraculous Power (v. 11-12; 17-19)
   b. They R_____ God's Affirmation (v. 16)

H. By Faith Isaac (v. 20; cf. Genesis 27:27-40)

I. By Faith Jacob (v. 21; cf. Genesis 48)

J. By Faith Joseph (v. 22; cf. Genesis 50:22-26)

INTROSPECTION

* Where is the "Focus" of your life? Have you "Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."
* Do you truly believe that God is able to do the impossible?
* What do you believe about the future? Does it line up with the Biblical testimony?
* Is there a need to change the way you think and therefore the way you act?

INTERACTION ... Thoughts & Questions to ponder for later discussion

* How can we appropriately and encouragingly provoke one another towards proper thinking in living out our faith?