

“I Don’t Wait Anymore” chapter 12 study outline

Are you starting to feel the weight of the truth that there is a story happening that is bigger than me, bigger than you? When my friend Heather started to feel that truth in her soul, she got up off the couch and signed up for foster parent classes. She knew God’s call to care for orphans applied to her (check out James 1:27), and she knew that meant she needed to find a way to be a part of it.

She didn’t wait for the story to come to her (though it sometimes does). She went looking for it in a God-honoring way — one that invested in the story God is writing, not the one she wanted for herself. We see that all over Scripture — people who know their true “home” is right in the middle of God’s story, with their permanent, visible home coming later in heaven. One place we see that is Hebrews 11, which we’ve looked at briefly in previous chapters. Let’s take a deeper look at it now.

Read Hebrews 11.

- Right from the beginning in verses 1-3, what truth do we see about Who is writing the big story happening in and around us?
- In verses 4-12 and 17-38, we see how people responded when they saw God for who He was, had faith in Him, and oriented their life around Him. Look at the heart of this chapter, verses 14-16:
 - What do we learn here about people who truly follow God? Are their hearts set on their immediate surroundings or something far beyond that?
 - How does it change the way they feel about their lives here on earth?
 - How does this remind you of what we read in 2 Corinthians 5 in our IDWA chapter 11 study?
 - How do the last two verses of Hebrews 11 drive that home?
- Check out some of the stories we see in this chapter. Noah, for instance — his life couldn’t have been a cakewalk. Or Moses, who left wealth behind to follow the God of his people. What does how they chose to spend their lives on earth tell you about which story they thought to be greater in the world? (Their life, or the eternal one God was writing?)
- Look again at verses 32-38. This chapter ends with some gruesome stories. This tells us pretty plainly that following God’s story might not always be pleasant, to say the least. But is it worth it?

Hebrews 11 is a heavy chapter — especially to pair with a book chapter about plague-colored enchiladas. But the truth is — we need to know that while God’s story is *best* and *eternal* and *beyond comparison*, it might also be *difficult to choose*.

Questions for discussion:

- How are you pursuing God in your life? How are you pursuing His story?
- What are some ways you can begin to look for the threads of His story, not just to find a life purpose but to gain Him as the prize at the end?