

A PICTURE OF FAITH

5/9 & 5/10

[Hebrews 11:1-12:3](#) – What is faith? Hebrews 11:1 answers that for us. It says that faith is “confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” Faith in Jesus is confidence in him for our forgiveness and assurance that we will be with him for eternity. Some may say that this is foolishness, but the rest of Hebrews 11 and the beginning of chapter 12 point out those who had faith and how they lived. Their witness gives us the strength to live out our faith and throw off those things that trip us up. We have witnesses around us right now who are sharing their faith in Jesus to strengthen ours.

Who is in your cloud of witnesses?

How has their witness given you strength to live out your faith?

Who should you be encouraging?

Sermon Notes



Our Journey for

May 4 – May 10, 2026

We are getting ready for Youth Sunday this week. The youth will lead the service, and Ms. Lochlan will share a message about her faith during difficult moments. We have all gone through moments when our faith was tested. During those moments, we choose to work through our questions to strengthen our faith, or our questions become stronger than our faith, and we walk away. The questions are not the issue. It's how we handle the questions, or in most instances, how others handle the questions. We wrestled with some big questions during youth this past year. We didn't always have an answer, but we wrestled together with what the Bible says. You might have some questions left unanswered from your journey with Jesus. It is time to ask someone to help you understand so your faith can continue to be strengthened and deepened. ~ Pastor Seth

PLANTING OUR FEET

Mon. 5/4

[Psalm 40](#) – Have you ever tried to cross a creek without getting your feet wet? How do you do it? You have to walk across the rocks sticking up above the water. If you are unsure of your footing, then you end up in the creek getting wet. There are times when our lives can feel like we are crossing a creek. We try to stay out of the muck and mire, but we can't always do so. We fall in. How do we get out? We try on our own power to get on some solid ground. We may be able to get out on our own once in a while, but we often need help. As people of faith, Jesus picks us up and places us on solid ground. Then he continues to walk with us to save us and strengthen our faith.

When was the last time you fell into the muck and mire of life?

How did you get out?

Who helped you?

FAITHFUL AND STILL IN TROUBLE

Tue. 5/5

[Genesis 39:1-23](#) – One of the questions that we wrestle with is “Why?” Many times, that question isn’t really answered. Joseph was one of the twelve sons of Jacob and Jacob’s favorite. God chose Joseph to do some amazing things. He would save his family, including his brothers and their families, from starvation. Yet, Joseph would face challenges that would make any of us question our faith in God. Joseph was sold into slavery, accused of a crime he didn’t commit, and forgotten in prison. At any one of those points in time, he could have given up on his faith. Genesis doesn’t record Joseph asking the why question. He continues to serve those around him. He remained faithful to God even when he had a chance to get revenge. He trusted God and what God was doing.

How does the question “Why” impact your relationship with God?

What would it take for you to respond like Joseph and trust God?

A DIFFERENT KIND OF TRUST

Wed. 5/6

[Daniel 1:1-20](#) – When was the last time you stood up for what you believe in? It takes courage and faith to stand against the status quo. Daniel is one of those who understands the courage and faith it takes to follow God despite the whims of human leaders. He stands up a couple of times. We will look at the first event in Daniel chapter 1. He and his friends are designated to work with the royal advisors. To do that, they must follow the dietary guidelines and do well in their studies. The issue is that the dietary guidelines did not line up with God’s commands. Daniel took the lead and asked if they could change the dietary guidelines. The first answer was a solid “NO!” Daniel prayed and took a different tactic, and asked if they could follow their own diet for a limited time. The ones in charge agreed to try, and Daniel and his friends excelled.

Why did Daniel’s diet show his faith in God?

What is one small area in your life that you could change, which would show your faith in God?

WHY DID YOU DOUBT?

Thur. 5/7

[Matthew 14:22-33](#) - Jesus sends his disciples across the lake while he stays to pray. There comes a time when Jesus crosses the lake to join his disciples. Jesus doesn’t walk the long way around; he walks across the lake, on top of the water. The disciples know it’s not possible to walk on the water, and so they are scared. Peter gets the courage to ask if it is Jesus. If so, he wants to walk on water. Jesus tells Peter to come, so Peter gets out of the boat and walks toward Jesus. It’s going well until Peter notices the wind and waves, and he begins to sink. When he cries out, Jesus saves him and asks, “Why did you doubt?” This is a strange question. It leaves a thought of how many times we doubt instead of trusting Jesus? What else could we do?

Would you have gotten out of the boat? Why?

Why did Peter doubt? Why do you doubt?

FAITH AND WORKS

Fri. 5/8

[James 2:14-26](#) – People can share their thoughts and opinions, but how do you know what they believe? Someone can say that vanilla ice cream is the best kind of ice cream, but what happens if you only see them eat chocolate ice cream? Do you believe them when they say vanilla is the best? James is pointing out that our faith and actions must work together. We can’t just say that we believe in Jesus. It should be seen in how we live our lives, how we speak to others, how we care for our neighbors, and how we share our love of Jesus. We know people who talk the good talk but whose actions don’t match their words. It is hard to trust them and believe what they say. This inconsistency is what leads many people away from following Jesus. When our words and actions don’t align, people notice and pause their faith journey.

When have your words and actions been inconsistent?

What can you do about those inconsistencies?