

Sanctuary First

November 2012

Theme Summary - The Legacy

Scripture Focus: Hebrews 12:1-3 (with backward reference to Hebrews 11)

The imagery of the Christians being encouraged to run the race of faith, cheered on by the men and women of faith whose faith has been celebrated in chapter 11.

Background

As we enter November we are in the season of remembering: celebrating the saints - ancient and modern in the season of All Saints; and reflecting on the legacy war - the horrors experienced and the freedoms gained through the sacrifice of many.

We draw on the catalogue of people of faith described in Hebrews 11, and pick up the imagery of the "cloud of witnesses" cheering us on with the race of faith (Hebrews 12:1-3). With the memories of the Olympic stadia still in our minds, the imagery resonates with fresh significance - and with it the ongoing theme of legacy.

Within the wider theme of passing faith on to the next generation, we take time to reflect on who has inspired us on our journey of faith, and what legacy we want to leave for others. The BBC series, *Who do you think you are?*, explores the family history of celebrities, often revealing poignant stories that have shaped the generations before. Looking at those who have influenced us or those who had the conviction to found our churches, may yield a few surprises.

But remembering is only half the story. The future depends on our faithfulness as we fix our eyes on Jesus and run the race set before us. How will the past encourage us on that race of faith?

Focus

- Core element of passing our faith on to the next generation - faith received and passed on
- Context suitable for people with little background in church of Christian Faith. Check our assumptions of knowledge (tell the stories) and behaviour (interactive); lead people into prayerful experience of God (five senses)

Setting the Scene

Setting the Scene
Sporting imagery of races and crowds
Olympic Symbols
Sounds of cheering crowds as we begin.

Item	Notes
PRESENTER	Introduce the theme of the legacy of faith we have received and the legacy we want to leave behind. Introduce the writer to the Hebrews and his great procession of men and women of faith.
VIDEO	<p>Delirious - History Maker</p> <p>Is it true today that when people pray Cloudless skies will break Kings and queens will shake Yes it's true and I believe it I'm living for you</p> <p>Is it true today that when people pray We'll see dead men rise And the blind set free Yes it's true and I believe it I'm living for you</p> <p>I'm gonna be a history maker in this land I'm gonna be a speaker of truth to all mankind I'm gonna stand, I'm gonna run Into your arms, into your arms again Into your arms, into your arms again</p> <p>Well it's true today that when people stand With the fire of God, and the truth in hand We'll see miracles, we'll see angels sing We'll see broken hearts making history Yes it's true and I believe it We're living for you</p>
VIDEO	<p>Youtube - Cloud of Witnesses https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jsxtolLiOek</p>
SCRIPTURE FOCUS	Brief summary of Hebrews 11 (see below) followed by reading Hebrews 12:1-3
PRAYER	Thanks for Faith-Shapers of the Past

Item	Notes
DISCUSSION	<p>Who do you think you are? (Draw on the TV series where people trace their family tree and identify how they have been shaped by others over the years)</p> <p>Individual (s) share a brief story of people who have influenced them on their faith journey AND/OR Group sharing stories of individuals who have influenced them on their journey of faith OR Story of the founding of your church. What inspired the founders? What was their founding vision? What would they do today? OR If your church has a patron saint, draw on that story and what it means for your church to be shaped by that DNA.</p>
BEYOND OURSELVES	<p>Look at Inspiring Christians www.historymakers.info/inspirational-christians/</p>
OUR CELTIC LEGACY	<p>Prepare three or four installations based on the stories of Celtic saints with Celtic prayers and Celtic music and images of Celtic knots to be coloured in or traced</p>
FEEDBACK	<p>Which Celtic Hero would inspire you? Draw out their determination to follow Jesus through tough times. Highlight some of the qualities of those founders of the faith for Scotland/ Britain.</p>
BUILD A CAIRN	<p>Build a cairn of stones with Biblical themes taped to them.</p> <p>Sometimes when a new public building is being established a time-capsule is laid in the foundations with symbols of our time or a message for future generations.</p> <p>If you had to put a Bible story or saying in a time capsule as a legacy for the next generation, what would it be?</p>
PRAYER	<p>Pray for Faith-Shapers in the Future</p>

Item	Notes
SONG/MUSIC	<p>Eg. Shout to the North (Men of Faith)</p> <p>Men of faith rise up and sing Of the great and glorious king You are strong when you feel weak In your brokenness complete</p> <p>Shout to the north and the south Sing to the east and the west Jesus, Savior to all Lord of heaven and earth</p> <p>Rise up women of truth Stand and sing to broken hearts Who can know the healing power Of our Awesome King of Love</p> <p>We've been through fire. We've been through rain We've been refined By the power of His name We've fallen deeper in love with you You've burned the truth on our lips</p>
BLESSING	

THE LEGACY OF FAITH

The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see. The act of faith is what distinguished our ancestors, set them above the crowd. (Hebrews 11:1 - The Message)

Faith on legs.
People trusting God.
Signposts.
Encouragers.
Faith with a name.

Noah - building an boat in the desert.
He believed the big rains were coming.
Foolish faith.
Wise man.
FAITH.

Abraham - leaving home for the unknown.
He trusted and travelled.
Old man trusting God
for a son in his old age
believing the twice impossible.
25 years of waiting.
And then - Isaac - "laughing boy".
FAITH.

Moses - hearing God in a burning bush.
He made his excuses
but God was God
so God won the argument.
Out of Egypt
into the Sinai wilderness.
Keeping his eye

on the One no eye can see,
he kept on going.
FAITH.

Lists of names -
Gideon, Samson, David -
and others less well known,
all standing on the terraces of heaven
cheering us on
as we run the race of
FAITH.