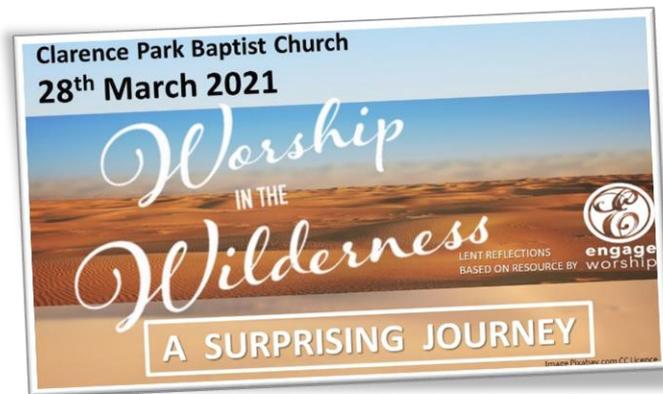


# Clarence Park Baptist Church

Question for Week following service 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021



## Big Idea of the Series

Everyone one of us will experience times of wilderness in our lives. These are the times of loss and hardship perhaps caused by bereavement, a loss of employment, broken relationships, illness or loneliness and isolation. What does God want to teach us through these situations?

And how can they help us to grow not just closer to God but deeper in our worship to him?

*(this series is based on resources by [engageworship.com](http://engageworship.com))*

## Week 5 – A SURPRISING Journey

Hebrews 11:1-12 & 32-40 Ephesians 6:10-18

## Preparation

1. Watch the sermon from the church YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/r5XaKle8sD4>
2. Read the passages on the next page and reflect on the questions before meeting with the rest of the group to explore your journeys together

## Group Study

- Begin with a time of prayer – asking God to help you learn something new

## Hebrews 11: 1-12 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

### Faith in action

**11** Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. <sup>2</sup>This is what the ancients were commended for.

<sup>3</sup>By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

<sup>4</sup>By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith Abel still speaks, even though he is dead.

<sup>5</sup>By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: 'He could not be found, because God had taken him away.'<sup>[a]</sup> For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. <sup>6</sup>And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

<sup>7</sup>By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith.

<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. <sup>11</sup>And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she<sup>[b]</sup> considered him faithful who had made the promise. <sup>12</sup>And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

## Hebrews 11:32-40 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

<sup>32</sup>And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup>who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup>quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. <sup>35</sup>Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. <sup>36</sup>Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup>They were put to death by stoning;<sup>[a]</sup> they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and ill-treated – <sup>38</sup>the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup>These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised, <sup>40</sup>since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

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## Ephesians 6:10-18 New International Version - UK (NIVUK)

### The armour of God

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup>Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup>and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

[New International Version - UK \(NIVUK\)](#)

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## Questions for discussion / Reflection

Reflect and share your experiences together using the following questions.

Take time at the end to ask what is God teaching you this week to help you grow as a disciple of Jesus?

- 1. What has struck you most about our journey of Worship in the wilderness? How has this series given you new insights into God, life and faith?**
  
- 2. How might you live differently because of this series?**
  
- 3. How would being human and divine have made this coming week especially difficult for Jesus?**
  - a) How did his prayer “if this cup be taken from me” echo this difficulty?**
  
  - b) How do your prayers change when you face difficulties compared to when you are celebrating blessing?**
  
- 4. Hebrews 11 speaks about the faith of many people. How are these characters an example to you? Which characters in the bible are you most like? And what have you learned from their journey?**
  
- 5. How does the passage from Ephesians help us to live as people of faith?**

## Prayer

Take some time to share prayer needs, pray for one another, for the church and for our local community before finishing with the words of the grace.