

THE ANCIENTS // MOSES REFUSED

The word 'identity' will mean different things to different people - for some people it will just be a Christian cliché, for others it might be a painful topic. Start with a discussion around the word identity; how do people react to it?

Read Hebrews 11:23-28 together.

Faith Reveals Our Identity

In Moses' story we see that faith reminds us that we are made in the image of God. Moses' parents operated in faith when they sent Moses down the Nile in a basket to escape the rule from Pharaoh that every Hebrew boy must be killed. Hebrews tells us that "By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child". Their faith allowed them to see Moses the way that God sees him, as no ordinary child.

- Have you ever considered this link between faith and identity?
- Have you experienced the way in faith can impact how we see ourselves?

Faith Determines Our Choices

Hebrews 11:24-7 tells us:

"By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward."

Moses' faith caused him to make choices that were difficult and painful in the short-term because 'he was looking ahead to his reward'.

- How do choices we make 'by faith' differ from other decisions?
- Kate shared a story of how faith played a part in who she chose to marry (spoiler alert!). What choices have you made that have been influenced by faith?
- What factors may have stopped Moses from making decisions 'by faith', and what are they in our lives?

Faith Leads us to Suffer

Suffering is inevitable when live a life of faith. We see this in Moses' story as he 'chose to be mistreated' and 'regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ'. Kate summarised it like this: "faith leads us to suffer."

- Do you agree with this statement?
- What does this look like in you life? How could living by faith cause you to suffer? And how can we grow from these experiences?

Faith Qualifies us for Eternity

Moses' story reflects the story of Christ in many ways, including the fact that he suffered and endured disgrace. Another way Moses' story reminds us of Jesus is that he plays a key part in saving the Israelites from the 'destroyer of the firstborn'. We know that faith in Jesus also saves us and qualifies us for Eternity.

- Throughout Hebrews 11 we see that the Ancients had faith for something better to come after this life. Moses was said to be 'looking ahead to his reward.' How does faith in eternal life affect the way we live today?

Kate finished by explaining that we grow in faith in these things through the power of the Holy Spirit. Why not use this as an opportunity to invite the Holy Spirit to fill you and your Hub. It might be that you pray in smaller groups, or wait and listen to God as a whole Hub.