

Hebrews 11:32 – 12:4

New American Standard Bible 1995

1 ³² And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell
2 of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel
3 and the prophets, ³³ who by faith conquered kingdoms,
4 performed *acts of* righteousness, obtained promises, shut
5 the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped
6 the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong,
7 became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.
8 ³⁵ Women received *back* their dead by resurrection; and
9 others were tortured, not accepting their release, so that
10 they might obtain a better resurrection; ³⁶ and others
11 experienced mockings and scourgings, yes, also chains
12 and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned, they were sawn in
13 two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the
14 sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being
15 destitute, afflicted, ill-treated ³⁸ (*men* of whom the world
16 was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and
17 caves and holes in the ground.
18 ³⁹ And all these, having gained approval through their
19 faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ because God
20 had provided something better for us, so that apart from us
21 they would not be made perfect.
22 **12** Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses
23 surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance
24 and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run
25 with endurance the race that is set before us, ² fixing our
26 eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for
27 the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the
28 shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of
29 God.
30 ³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by
31 sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary
32 and lose heart.
33 ⁴ You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood
34 in your striving against sin;

**Read the passage through completely
before looking at these questions.
(More suggested questions on the back.)**

Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- *Comparisons or contrasts?*
- *Purpose or explanation?*
- *Unusual or symbolic language?*
- *What else do you observe in this passage?*

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- *What is the point of v.32-35? v. 36-38?*
- *How does the writer summarize in v.39-40?*
- *After the end of ch. 11, how would you expect ch. 12 to start?*
- *In 12:1-3:*
 - *What is to be our motivation?*
 - *What are we to do?*
 - *How are we to respond to Jesus?*
 - *What has Jesus done?*

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- *What does Jesus' joy have to do with you?*
- *Is it realistic that you would ever be called on to "shed blood in striving against sin"?*
- *Jesus sitting "at the right hand of the throne of God" - just high-sounding theology, or is it important to you today? Why?*

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see

Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.

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