

6-WEEK WOMEN'S STUDY

# AUDACIOUS

Believing God in the Face of Impossibility

*Faith*

NONDA HOUSTON

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# BIBLE Memorization

*“LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY IN ALL WISDOM,  
TEACHING AND ADMONISHING ONE ANOTHER IN PSALMS  
AND HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS, SINGING WITH GRACE  
IN YOUR HEARTS TO THE LORD.”*

*COLOSSIANS 3:16 (NKJV)*

Each week throughout this study, a memory verse is provided. Here are a few facts to know:

- Bible memorization holds great importance and can have a tremendous impact on your discipleship journey. By hiding God’s Word in your heart, it enables you to internalize Scripture and deepen your connection with the Lord.
- It’s also important to realize that you are in a spiritual battle that is not fought nor won in the natural, physical realm.

*“FOR WE ARE NOT FIGHTING AGAINST FLESH-AND-BLOOD ENEMIES,  
BUT AGAINST EVIL RULERS AND AUTHORITIES OF THE UNSEEN WORLD,  
AGAINST MIGHTY POWERS IN THIS DARK WORLD,  
AND AGAINST EVIL SPIRITS IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES.”*

*EPHESIANS 6:12*

- Since it is a spiritual battle, you have been given a spiritual weapon. The Bible refers to the Word of God as your sword (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12). As you pray the Scriptures, you are aligning your thoughts with God’s, dismantling strongholds, and declaring the promises in your life and in your world.
- When your Bible isn’t with you, the Word can be hidden in your heart. It is a valuable resource to draw from in times of need, providing guidance, comfort, and strength in the face of life’s challenges.
- Scripture memorization is a source of wisdom and a reminder of God’s promises. Scripture memorization is a powerful source of encouragement and a way of passing along your values to the next generation.

*“I HAVE HIDDEN YOUR WORD IN MY HEART,  
THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST YOU.”*

*PSALM 119:11*

# STUDY *Tips*

## 1. GET COMFY

PUT ON SOME COMFORTABLE CLOTHES! BEING UNCOMFORTABLE CAN MAKE IT HARDER TO FOCUS.



## 2. FIND YOUR SPACE

ESTABLISH WHERE YOU'LL STUDY! FOR SOME THAT'S A COMFY CHAIR OR THE KITCHEN TABLE. FOR OTHERS THAT MIGHT BE AT CHURCH OR AT YOUR FAVORITE COFFEE SHOP!



## 3. GATHER YOUR SUPPLIES

BE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLE AND STUDY BOOK! SOME COLORED PENS AND HIGHLIGHTERS CAN BE HELPFUL TOOLS AS WELL!



## 4. POUR SOME FUEL

BIBLE STUDY JUST WOULDN'T BE COMPLETE WITHOUT YOUR FAVORITE DRINK! MY FUEL OF CHOICE IS A WARM VANILLA LATTE OR A CREAMY ICED CHAI! WHAT'S YOURS?



## 5. PUT AWAY DISTRACTIONS

TUCK AWAY ANYTHING THAT MIGHT DISTRACT YOU DURING YOUR QUIET TIME SO YOU CAN BE FULLY PRESENT.



## 6. PREPARE YOUR HEART

PRAY BEFORE YOU BEGIN YOUR STUDY EACH DAY. ASK GOD TO PREPARE YOUR HEART FOR WHAT HE WANTS TO REVEAL TO YOU THROUGH HIS WORD.



# introduction

*Audacious faith is not reckless, arrogant, or unwise, but bold and daring, ready to take God at His word. Such faith waits in expectation of the miracles to come—trusting in the Lord's timing while experiencing His peace in the waiting. Audacious faith requires us to surrender our will to the will of God when things do not go as we planned.*

Several years ago, my husband and I were lead pastors of a wonderful church in San Jacinto, California. The facility was comprised of several buildings including a children and youth center, an industrial kitchen, a fellowship hall, offices, and the main sanctuary. Instead of a keychain with dozens of different keys for every door, closet, cupboard, and file cabinet, keys were cut according to the access needed for each staff member. A small group had a special master key giving them open access to the entire property.

In many ways, faith is like a master key, allowing us access and entry into an abundant life with Jesus. Humankind may try to complicate the relationship and benefits that Jesus offers to us, but He has always kept it simple. Faith allows us to enter into a relationship with Jesus and pleases God greatly.

So, what does faith in everyday life really look like? What happens when we feel our faith is low or missing altogether? What do we do with disappointment or doubts in an outcome that we were believing for? Is it possible to grow our faith and take God at His word?

*[Jesus said,] "With God everything is possible."*

*Matthew 19:26*

Over the next six weeks, we will define what biblical faith is, address the questions head-on, and discuss what it means to have audacious faith.

I believe that God is raising up an army of committed, passionate, Bible-based, Spirit-empowered women who are standing in faith and believing God for the impossible. What does such a woman look like? She is patient but not passive. She is tenacious, gracious, and against all odds trusting in the One whom she loves and serves. She is leaning into Jesus, and actively waiting with hope-filled expectation that God hears, knows, cares, and will always bring the answer.

In a world filled with brokenness, hopelessness, and heartbreak, she will be known by her boldness of faith. And she is you!

I'm praying that God will equip you with new keys and allow you to become an audacious woman of faith.

*with love,*  
*Nonda Houston*  
AG Women National Director



WEEK

*One*

Why Faith Matters

## Bible Memory Verse

*And it is impossible to please God without faith.  
Anyone who wants to come to him must believe  
that God exists and that he rewards those  
who sincerely seek him.*

*Hebrews 11:6*

Hebrews



## WEEK 1 - DAY 1

*what is faith?*

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As we launch into our study about faith, there is no better place to begin than Hebrews 11. It is widely referred to as the “faith chapter” or the “hall of faith” as it reveals how centuries of God’s people lived out their faith.

Faith is the center point of our spiritual journey, yet it can be challenging to define what it is. Verse 1 is a strong place to start:

*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

*Hebrews 11:1 (NKJV)*

Faith is not something we can visibly see, but we do see the effects of it lived out in our daily life. Faith and hope that are aligned with Scripture result in substance and evidence—proof that we are believing and trusting in God.

The word for faith in the Greek language is *pistis*. It’s related to the ideas of belief, assurance, and conviction based on the faithfulness and trustworthiness of God. Faith can produce confidence, knowing that trust in God is not merely wishful thinking, but anchored to His promises and yet, surrendered to His sovereignty.

If there is one important place for us to focus as we begin our study, it would be verse 6:

*And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him.*  
*Hebrews 11:6*

I don't think it could be said more plainly. Your faith pleases God! He sees how you are trusting Him and there is great reward in doing so.

Throughout your life, there will be many seasons of your faith journey—times of growth and stretching, times of standing and believing, times of seeing and celebrating, and even times of questioning and doubting. Hebrews 11 is replete with the names of the most famous Old Testament believers who walked through impossibilities and uncertainty just like you can. And each one is introduced with the reason for their inclusion: By faith Abel, by faith Noah, by faith Abraham, by faith Sarah, Moses, Rahab, and many more believed God.

May you live a life marked by faith and utter dependence on God so that your name will be added to the numerous faithful who bring glory to Him.

# Reflection

What area of your faith life would you like to see grow as you go through this study?

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As you look over the list of names in Hebrews 11, you can either be motivated or intimidated. List what motivates and encourages you.

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Verses 1–35 record the results of trusting in God. However, verses 35–38 list those who believed yet did not receive what they asked for. But they still made it into the “hall of faith.” What does that say about their faith?

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# AUDACIOUS *Faith*

Believing God in the Face of Impossibility

*Do you ever wonder what a life of faith looks like in your everyday life?  
What happens when your faith is running low or missing altogether?  
What do you do when feeble faith turns to doubts, and doubts spiral to unbelief?*

Now is the time for us to learn to pray with boldness, confidence, and audacious faith. When we are in relationship with Jesus and empowered by the Spirit, our faith rises, enabling us to stand in spiritual battles, impact the kingdom of God, and encourage others to a life of faith.

## This Six-Week Study Includes:

- *Week 1 - Why Faith Matters*
- *Week 2 - How Faith Works*
- *Week 3 - How Faith Grows*
- *Week 4 - Faith Killers*
- *Week 5 - Living Out a Life of Faith*
- *Week 6 - Audacious Faith*

A measure of faith has been given to everyone. And you don't need much—Jesus said faith the size of a tiny mustard seed has monumental potential. Learn how to replace hopelessness and despair with vibrant faith that pleases the Lord and repels the enemy.



Nonda Houston is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God and serves as the National AG Women's director. She has been married to her husband, Gordon, for forty-two years. They served as lead pastors in San Jacinto, CA, for twenty-two years. Nonda also served as the SoCal Network Women's director for nearly fourteen years. She loves family time with her four married children and being "Nonnie" to her ten grandchildren. Nonda is passionate about encouraging, empowering, and equipping women to know Jesus and make Him known.

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