

The cloud of witnesses
For the week of May 19 – 25

Big Question for the week: How might you be more aware of others (the living and passed on 'cloud') as you live out your faith?

Day 1: Hebrews 11:1 – 40

Two questions to ponder:

How does this list usually function for you? Is it primarily inspiring, guilt-inducing, encouraging?

Who are the surprising members of the 'faith-filled'?

Day 2: Hebrews 12:1 – 6

Three questions to ponder:

How do these verses draw conclusions from the previous?

How do these verses keep the focus on the work of Christ?

Describe how the author describes the Christian life? Is it an easy one? Why or why not?

Day 3: 1 Corinthians 9:24 – 27; 2 Timothy 4:6 – 8

Two questions to ponder:

What significance is there to Paul consistently using active language to describe living the faith?

How often do you treat following Jesus like a "difficult task that must be completed through great effort"?

Day 4: Psalm 126

Two questions to ponder:

NOTE: this is a post-exile psalm

How does joy appear in the midst of painful difficulty?

What joyful song might you sing in order to tend your wounded heart / spirit?

Day 5: Numbers 9:15 – 23

Two questions to ponder:

NOTE: the word *cloud* would have strongly resonated with Jews in reference to the presence of God in the Exodus.

What ways might the cloud of witnesses and cloud of God connect?

What impact might it have for you?

Prayer: we might run aware of the cloud of witnesses.