

LESSON 75

By Faith

HEBREWS 11



BIBLE TRUTH

WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING REVIEW **5 MIN**

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

2. BIBLE STORY **10 MIN**

Read Hebrews 11 from the Scriptures or read story 153, “By Faith,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 **10 MIN**

Look Out for That Hammer

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ nails
- ✓ a board

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

You Need Faith to Believe in Things You Cannot See

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ hair dryer
- ✓ clear glass jar with lid
- ✓ small toy to fit inside the jar

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5 MIN**

7. ACTIVITY TIME **10 MIN**

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 75—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

8. CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON **20 MIN**

Hall of Faith

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ simple costumes made of flat sheets and towels, ropes for belts, and a wooden staff or two
- ✓ a plastic knife and other props for the skits

TOTAL 85 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Faith is believing what we do not see—For us, faith means trusting God’s Word. Unbelievers often refuse to believe what they cannot see with their own eyes. People of faith, however, believe what God says even if they cannot see it. You don’t need faith to believe what you can see with your own eyes. The Bible is filled with examples of things we believe by faith. In this chapter on faith, the writer of Hebrews turns to creation for his first example (Hebrews 11:3). The Bible begins with the words: “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). From the opening of Scripture we are called to believe something we cannot see. It takes faith to accept that everything around us was made by God from nothing. Our finite minds cannot comprehend it. When the Spirit of God changes a person and makes them alive, God gives them faith to believe. Only then are we able to trust fully in God’s Word and God’s plan.

Without faith it is impossible to please God—Without faith, the writer of Hebrews says, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Faith is the basic foundation of Christianity. If a person has no faith, then he must conclude that God, who cannot be seen, does not exist. But there is more to saving faith than believing that God exists. Even the demons, who of course are not saved, believe God exists (James 2:19). We must believe in God and place our faith in God’s saving plan. Our faith must be in Christ. We must believe in God’s plan of salvation through Jesus as revealed in the Bible; we must believe the gospel. Without faith in Jesus and his death on the cross it is impossible to please God.

Faith has always been the only way to please God—From Abel on, the writer of Hebrews lists the Old Testament heroes of the faith who trusted in God for their salvation. Each of these men and women trusted in a future promise of salvation that only God could provide. They looked forward to a time when God would live with them. The earth was a temporary country for them. They saw themselves as aliens—that is, not even a part of the earth. The people of God witnessed a taste of the power and majesty of God in the miracles they observed. The leading of the Israelites out of Egypt, the crossing of the Red Sea, the collapse of Jericho, etc., all served to build their faith in a mighty God. As a result, they were strengthened to follow God even though by the end of their lives they had not received the promise.

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today's Bible story fit into God's greater plan of redemption?

Abraham was "looking forward to the city...whose designer and builder is God" (Hebrews 11:10). Moses "considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward" (Hebrews 11:26). How was it that they looked ahead to a heavenly city and to the coming of the Savior when neither of these things yet existed? God granted them faith in a future hope. All those who died in faith prior to Christ were saved, for they were looking forward to Christ. The same gospel hope we possess saved those who had faith in God's promise of redemption. They, together with us who know Christ by name, are made perfect.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week's lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Hebrews 11 from the Scriptures or read story 153, "By Faith," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 10 MIN

Look Out for That Hammer

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ nails
- ✓ a board

Use this object lesson to talk to the class about faith.

As you open the lesson try to hammer a nail into the board. Keep hitting the nail on a slant so that it goes in crooked. Stop, take it out, and try again. After several tries, tell the class that if you don't get it this time, you might need to ask someone to hold the nail while you hammer. On your final try take careful aim and cry out in pain as you pretend to hit your finger instead of the nail. Jump up and down in pain.

Turn to the class and say, "That's it. I need someone to hold the nail for me." Watch for those who are reluctant to volunteer and ask one of them to hold the nail for you. See if you can convince him to come forward. The object is for him to trust your hammering skill.

Once the volunteer is convinced to hold the nail, take a few practice swings in slow motion. Hold the hammer with two hands. Your practice swings should look as though you are going to blast the nail. Then ask your nail holder if he is ready. Then fake one huge swing. He will likely flinch or even drop the nail. If so, draw him out about why he flinched. Ask him whether he trusts you.

Excuse your volunteer after thanking him and ask the class the following questions:

- **Why was it hard to hold the nail without flinching?**
(He or she didn't trust you.)
- **What does the Bible call it when we trust something?**
(The Bible calls our trust faith.)
- **If you can have faith in God, why is it so hard to have faith in my hammering?**
(God is perfect in all his ways; you are imperfect in your hammering.)

Read the accounts of the faithful in Hebrews 11, and draw the children out about what these people were putting their faith in. You want to emphasize that rather than focusing on their circumstances, these heroes of the faith were looking forward to God's plan in Jesus.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION **10 MIN**

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESSON 2 **10 MIN**

You Need Faith to Believe in Things You Cannot See

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ hair dryer
- ✓ clear glass jar with lid
- ✓ small toy to fit inside the jar

Prior to class, put the toy in the jar.

Tell the class that faith means believing in things that you cannot see with your eyes. Explain to them that you are going to show them something that they will need to believe by faith. Pull out the jar and tell the class you have something in the jar and you want to see if they can see it. Ask for a volunteer to identify what you have in the jar. They will be able to look through the glass and identify the toy. Then ask the class if your volunteer needed faith to believe. The answer is no because they could see right through the jar.

Take the toy out of the jar and close the lid. Ask the class for another volunteer. Show him the empty jar and ask him what you have inside the jar. He should say nothing. Tell him to look more carefully, that you really do have something in the jar. (What you have in the jar is air—nitrogen and oxygen molecules.) Play this up, trying to help them have “faith” that you are telling the truth. Then poll the class to see how many of them believe you have something in the jar and how many of them do not have faith that you have something in the jar.

Once you have polled the class, explain that in the jar there is air, which is made up of nitrogen and oxygen gas. To show them how you can see and feel the air, plug in a hair dryer and ask for a volunteer. (Choose someone with long hair.) Demonstrate how you can move her hair without touching it! That is because the fan rotates and pushes the air, which you cannot see, into the hair and moves it. In this case, even though you cannot see the air, you know it is there because it moves the hair.

We can believe that God is real for the same reasons. Although we cannot see God, we can see what he made. Paul told the Romans that we can have faith in God by virtue of his creation, which we see all around us (Romans 1:19–20).

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Color a Picture

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 75—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **Why is Abraham taking his family on a journey?**
(God asked Abraham to go to a new country.)
- **Did Abraham know why God asked him to go?**
(No. All Abraham knew is that God wanted him to move. Going without knowing is faith.)
- **Does God ask us to have faith today?**
(Yes. We believe in Jesus even though we cannot see him. We also obey God by obeying our parents even when we don't know why they ask us to do something.)

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Hall of Faith

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ simple costumes made of flat sheets and towels, ropes for belts, and a wooden staff or two
- ✓ a plastic knife and other props for the skits

Divide the class up into groups (you will need one teacher or adult helper per group), and have each group act out one of the scenes from the hall of fame of faith in Hebrews 11. Consider the following stories:

- Noah building the ark (Hebrews 11:7 and Genesis 6)
- Abraham moving with his family to a land he didn't know about and later being asked to sacrifice his son Isaac (Hebrews 11:8–12, 17–19, and Genesis 12 and 22)
- The first Passover and flight from Egypt (Hebrews 11:24–29 and Exodus 12)

Take your skits on the road and perform them for a younger class. Talk to that class about how each of the main characters demonstrated their faith in God.

LESSON 75 - BY FAITH

