

LESSON 75

By Faith

HEBREWS 11:1-10



BIBLE TRUTH

WITHOUT FAITH IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: puppet

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 153)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 75—one for each child; markers or crayons

What We Cannot See

SUPPLIES: blindfold; one eight-foot long 2x4 board (Alternatively use six large books, like stepping stones, for the children to step from one to the other without touching the floor.)

Noah’s Faith

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn that it is impossible to please God without faith.

Tell the children you are going to see if they can remember some Bible characters. Share the name of the Bible character and ask the children if they remember something the character did. Have a helper use the puppet as one of the children to help funnel clues to them. Have the puppet guess the correct answer if the children get stuck. Then share a bit more of what that character did and how he needed to trust God by faith for things he couldn't see.

NOAH built an ark even though there was no water nearby; believed that God existed, that he was real; and obeyed God's word. (Puppet clues: I think it has something to do with bringing animals on to something. I think there is a rainbow in the story.)

ABRAHAM left his home; believed God would give him a child; and was willing to sacrifice Isaac because he believed God could raise his son from the dead. (Puppet clues: I think God promised to give him something special in his old age. I think he found some kind of animal stuck in the bushes.)

MOSES met God in the burning bush; confronted Pharaoh with the plagues; trusted God to do the miracles God said he would, like turning his staff into a snake and turning the water of the Nile to blood; and led God's people out of Egypt through the Red Sea. (Puppet clues: I think he heard God speak out of something that was on fire. I think he did something with a pharaoh.)

DAVID trusted God when he fought the giant Goliath, killing with a stone and sling; had faith that God would deliver him and give him victory; was a great king in Israel; and wrote many psalms. God called him a man after his own heart. (Puppet clues: I think he did something to a giant. I think he was a king.)

Take time to explain how each of these characters believed that God existed, that God was real, and that following God would result in blessing.

Explain that without faith—without believing in God—it is impossible to please God. We could try really hard to be a good person, but if we don't believe in God and his plan of blessing we will not please God.

Take time to pray and thank God for the wonderful gift of faith. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY **10 MIN**

Read story 153, "By Faith," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION **5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What quality was shared by all the people mentioned in the story?**
(faith)
- **What is faith?**
(Faith is believing something to be true that you cannot see or prove to be true.)
- **What do we need faith for?**
(We cannot see God so we need faith to believe that he is real.)

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.

SNACK QUESTIONS **10 MIN**

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

- **Do you have faith? If so, what do you have faith in?**
(By this time in the lesson they may be able to voice a belief in God. If they do not answer, help them come to the conclusion that they believe in God even though they have never seen him.)

- **What does God think of our faith?**
(Our faith pleases God [Hebrews 11:6].)

- **Why does our faith make God happy?**
(Our faith in God pleases him and makes him happy because it tells him that we trust him and depend on him. The Bible also says that our faith is a gift from God. How amazing! God gives us faith, then is pleased with us when we show our faith!)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5-10 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.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS **20-30 MIN**

Coloring Activity

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. Abraham only knew 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 if we don't know why they ask us to do something.)

What We Cannot See

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ blindfold
- ✓ one eight-foot long 2x4 board (Alternatively, use six large books, like stepping stones, for the children to step from one to the other without touching the floor.)

Before class cut the board into one six-foot length and then the remaining two feet into three eight-inch pieces. The six-foot length forms a balance beam and the eight-inch pieces can serve as supports, one on each end and one in the middle. Bring the boards to class and set up the balance beam on the supports. (Lay the supports flat so the balance beam is only about two and one-half inches off the ground).

Explain to the children that you are going to have them walk the balance beam blindfolded, but that you will help them. The object of this exercise is to help them practically understand that faith is trusting in what they cannot see.

Take the children one by one on the balance beam. Coach them over the distance, telling them that if they fall you will catch them. Have a spotter on each side.

Afterward ask the children what it was like to walk across the beam. Use the word “faith” in your discussion. For example, Did you have faith that I would catch you if you fell? Did you have faith that you would make it?

Ask them how Noah and Abraham demonstrated faith. Noah believed that God would bring the flood even though it had never before rained. Abraham and Sarah trusted God to send them on a journey to a new home, and they had faith that God would give them a child, even though they were very old.

Noah's Faith

Have a few of the children pretend to be Noah and his family. Have the rest of the class play Noah's neighbors. Help the children act out building the ark and the following scene:

Noah and his sons are building the ark when a neighbor asks them what they are doing. Then the neighbor asks why they are building a boat where there is no water. Noah answers that God is going to bring water out of the sky to fill the land. Have the neighbors laugh at Noah, saying there is no such thing and that they will “believe it when they see it.”

After the drama, sit the children down and ask the following questions:

- **In this skit, who had faith?**
(Noah)

- **How did Noah show his faith?**
(Noah did not see rain, but he believed God.)

- **Who did not show faith in the skit?**
(Noah's neighbors)

- **What do we call it when someone does not have faith?**
(unbelief)

Read Hebrews 11:6 to the children and explain that God is pleased when we believe. Have them memorize the first half of the verse: “Without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists.”

CLOSING PRAYER **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

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