

What is Faith?

Teacher Pep Talk: How much fun! You get to talk about what faith is! It is such a great blessing to teach a huge spiritual concept to a room full of children and watch them drink it all in without batting an eyelash. Children are amazing in their capacity to do just that. And when they finish listening to your lesson, they will understand faith as well as any grown-up. I believe this is why Jesus said that “the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” when referring to little children. Bless them!

Before you start teaching this lesson, please review the following Bible verses: Romans 12:3, Ephesians 2:8, Romans 2:23-28, and our memory verse for this lesson, Hebrews 11:1

You will need: Copies of the activities page for each child, crayons or colored pencils, scissors, yarn, and glue.

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:1 Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. KJV

Major Points:

- Faith is a gift from God.
- God wants us to live in faith.
- Moving in faith causes us to be blessed.

Lesson:

NOTE: As you begin the lesson, show the children something you are good at that required some practice. (EX: writing your name in cursive, or playing an instrument.)

Faith is a gift of God

- Today we are going to talk about a special kind of believing.
- Do you know what believing is? (*Allow them to answer.*)
- How many of you believe you will have lunch today? (*Wait for answers.*) Who will fix lunch for you? (*Wait for answers*)
- So, you believe that _____ will fix your lunch today. You believe this because _____ has done so in the past over and over again.
- Faith is believing in something you can't necessarily prove.
- Memory Verse: *Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen. Hebrews 11:1*
- The Bible says that Faith is given to us by God. But it is something you may have to practice for it to feel natural (*like writing your name in cursive, or playing an instrument.*)

God wants us to live in faith

- God loves us and He can do all things. This means that God is always able to take care of us. So, we can **trust** God.
- When we go through our days trusting God and knowing He will help take care of us, that is **living in faith**.
- Jesus told His disciples to have faith (or to believe in) God.

When we live in Faith, we are blessed.

- When we trust God (even a little), we find out that He keeps His word. This helps us trust Him even more the next time.
- The Bible is full of stories of how people had faith in God, and He blessed them for it!
- If the children want to hear one of the stories of faith, tell them this one from Mark 5:24-34 about an old woman who had been very sick for a long time. She believed that if she could just touch Jesus' robe that she would be healed. She managed to touch the hem of His robe and she was healed! When Jesus realized she had touched Him, He told her *"Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."*
Mark 5:34

Let's pray and thank God that He gives us faith.

Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank you that you love us.
Thank you for giving us faith.
Thank you that we can know you and trust you! Amen

Suggested Activities:

Faith Door Hangers: Use the sheet provided. Make one copy for each child. Allow the children to color the circles with crayons, and then cut out the circles. Write the children's names on the back of the circles. Use yarn to attach the two circles together (you may either glue one end of the yarn to each circle, or punch holes in the circles and tie the yarn to each one.) Send the Door Hangers home with the children, so that they may hang them over the doorknobs to their rooms. (The kids love these things!)

Test of Faith: Scatter 4-5 chairs or large objects across the floor of your room. Have the children sit by the wall or on one end of the room. Ask for a volunteer who will trust you to lead them safely around the room. Blindfold the volunteer. While the other children watch, lead the blindfolded child around the room safely avoiding all of the chairs you have scattered there. Remove the blindfold. Explain as you are doing this that this is how God leads us through life. Sometimes we are unaware of dangers or problems around us, but God is always there, helping us through them. We can have faith in God. Repeat until all children have had a turn.

NOTE: For more fun put words or pictures on the chairs depicting kinds of trouble or problems we may encounter in life. Lead the child safely through them all.

Faith is the Substance of Things Hoped for,
the Evidence of things Not Seen.

Hebrews 11:1 KJV

