

SECTION

4.1

Faith



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Statements of Faith

What You'll Need: Nothing

STEP 1: Read several of the following statements:

- My legs will not fall off when I walk.
- I can sit in a chair without falling.
- I know someone will pick me up tonight from club.

STEP 2: Ask: "In what or whom do you have to trust in order for these statements to be true?" Help students recognize that in order for us to believe the statements, we have to trust in something or someone.

STEP 3: Share these key concepts:

- We often place our confidence or trust in something without thinking twice, like sitting in a chair. We do not have to worry about a chair because we have already personally witnessed that it is secure. In other words, we have put faith in that object, believing that the object will perform as expected.
- When we trust Jesus as our Savior, we trust or have confidence that God will keep His promise of eternal life and a relationship with Him because of our trust in Jesus.

STEP 4: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of faith.

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STEP 1: Ask the following questions. Be ready to offer suggestions in parentheses as needed.

- What do we know about earth's gravity? (It keeps us from floating away into space; if we drop something, it will fall to the floor; if we throw something in the air, it will fall back to the ground, etc.)
- What do we know about electricity? (If we plug something in an outlet, it will turn on; if we turn on a light switch, it will light the room; etc.)
- Have you ever seen electricity?
- Have you ever seen gravity?

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- We believe in electricity and gravity, even though they cannot be seen, because we see the effects and the outcomes they produce (e.g., we can turn on the lights, we can jump in the air and know we will return to the ground, etc.).
- We often place our confidence or trust in something without thinking twice, like knowing that flipping on a light switch will give light to a dark room.
- In a similar way, when we accept Jesus as our Savior, we trust or have confidence that God will keep His promise of eternal life and a relationship with Him because of our trust in Jesus.
- Faith is believing in Jesus and what He has done for us.

STEP 3: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of faith.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Faithful Characters

What You'll Need: Faithful Characters Handout, two volunteers (they can be kids or leaders) to read the handout as the faithful characters, (optional: microphone or way for your two volunteers to read from offstage)

PREP: Cut the handout in half and give each volunteer a half.

STEP 1: Explain that this week's lesson will be on faith.

Share these key concepts:

- Faith is necessary in order for us to accept Jesus as our Savior. In order to be saved, we must believe that Jesus, God's Son, took the punishment for our sin by dying on the cross (Ephesians 2:8, Romans 10:9-10).
- Faith is not a one-time event in our lives. After we have accepted Jesus as Savior, our faith will grow as we learn more about who He is and what He has done. We recognize the growing faith of the disciples during a windstorm at sea. The frightened men called out to Jesus who spoke and immediately calmed the water. The disciples recognized Jesus' authority over nature, and their faith in Him grew (Mark 4:35-41).
- Our faith will grow as we learn more about God and begin to recognize examples of faithful people in the Bible. Hebrews 11 contains many examples of real people who trusted in God and did great things for Him. As we study their examples, we learn that God will always be with us and will give us the strength and courage to do what He asks us to do.

STEP 2: Have your two volunteers read their character sketch from the Faithful Characters Handout. Then ask the following questions after each sketch is read:

- How did that person show their faith in God?
- What happened to that character because of their faith?

STEP 3: Read or recite this week's memory verse, Hebrews 11:6, together. Then share these key concepts:

- Faith is not only required for us to have a relationship with God, it is also required for us to please Him. As we learn more about God and grow in our faith, our relationship with God deepens. We want to praise and glorify Him with our lives and become the people God created us to be (Galatians 2:20).
- We know our faith is growing when we are ready to do what God asks us to do (Ephesians 2:10). As we do good works and demonstrate our faith by our actions, others will see it, and God will be glorified (Matthew 5:16).

STEP 4: Follow up with the Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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Faithful Characters Handout

Moses

Do you know who I am? Let me give you a few clues.

1. I was born at a time when a wicked Pharaoh was trying to kill all the baby boys of my people.
2. My mom hid me for several months, and then made a basket and put me in the river in my little basket boat. An Egyptian princess found me and adopted me.
3. I grew up as Egyptian royalty. I had all the wealth and education and power of a royal family. I had it made.

Did you guess who I am? Yep, I'm Moses.

You may think that my life was full of exciting adventures, and you are right; there were some amazing things that I saw God do. But there were other parts of my life when I was afraid, when I didn't understand what God was doing.

Did you know that I left Egypt, from my place of prominence in the royal family? I ended up in the desert, watching my father-in-law's sheep. But God called me from a burning bush and told me to go back to Egypt and help lead His people to the land God had promised them.

At first, I did not want to go. I told God that I wasn't qualified, that there was certainly someone better for the job than I was. But I realized that even though I was scared, God would be with me.

As I obeyed God, I saw Him perform amazing miracles to show the Egyptians that He is the true God. And guess what? I learned through all of that just how awesome God is! I realized that I could trust God, and I knew that I wanted to be the person God created me to be.

As my faith in God grew, God helped me do amazing things for Him. I helped lead the children of Israel through the desert. I watched God part the Red Sea. Through all of those adventures, I really began to know and understand God more. And the more I got to know God, the more I could trust Him.

Even though I was scared when God asked me to do the big things, I learned that He was always with me. He gave me the strength and courage to have faith to do even bigger things. And He will do the same for you too!

Sarah

Hey, there. I'm Sarah. You are probably more familiar with my husband, Abraham. Lots of people know about Abraham's faith in God. But did you know that God said I had great faith?

God promised Abraham that he would be the father of a great nation, and Abraham believed Him. But years went by, and I grew older and older. Soon I was too old to have a baby. But then God came to Abraham and said that in a year we would have a child. At first, I wasn't so sure. In fact, I even laughed when God said that I would have a baby. But then I remembered that God promised this to Abraham. God is faithful, and He has always kept His promises.

I chose to have faith and believe that God would be faithful to me.

And do you know what? He was! God gave me, an old lady, a baby boy. We named him Isaac, which means "laughter." Every time I see my boy, I am reminded that God is faithful.

I'm not some superhero, and I didn't do some huge thing for God, yet God included me in a list of men and women who had faith in Him.

I hope that when you hear my story you will remember this: You can trust God to do what He says He will do. God will never let you down, and He will always do what He promises.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)
Option 2: Faith Lived Out

What You'll Need: Bibles, paper, pen, three cans of play dough. (Optional: If the dough seems to messy for your group, use pieces of aluminum foil instead for the kids to sculpt with.)

STEP 1: Explain that this week's lesson is on faith. To help them understand what faith is, they will be completing a challenge. This challenge will involve looking at some examples of people who had faith.

STEP 2: Divide kids into groups of three to six and give each group one of the following passages, written on a sheet of paper.

Verses for the kids to sculpt:

- Mark 4:35-41
- Matthew 8:5-13
- Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

STEP 3: Give each group a container of play dough and tell them that they have five minutes to make a sculpture that represents their story.

STEP 4: After five minutes, have groups show their sculptures. After each group has presented their sculpture, review key parts of the narratives, and then ask the following questions:

- Who demonstrated faith in the story?
- What did the characters believe Jesus could do?
- What did the characters learn about Jesus?

STEP 5: Share these key concepts:

- Just like the people in these Bible stories, our faith will grow as we learn more about God and begin to recognize examples of faithful people in the Bible. Hebrews 11 contains many examples of real people who trusted in God and did great things for Him. As we study their examples, we learn that God will always

be with us and will give us the strength and courage to do what He asks us to do.

- As our faith strengthens, we will begin to demonstrate our faith to others by our actions. We will seek to please God and glorify Him with our lives (Galatians 2:20). We will become the people God created us to be, and we will be ready to do what He asks of us (Ephesians 2:10). As we live out our faith in our actions, others will see it, and God will be glorified (Matthew 5:16).

STEP 6: Follow up with the Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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