

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

What Was This Made Out Of?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ nail
- ✓ penny
- ✓ pencil
- ✓ rubber band
- ✓ live houseplant
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

5. OBJECT LESSON 2 15 MIN

Our Hope Is in a Future Promise

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ two eight-ounce chocolate bars
- ✓ shoe box with lid
- ✓ two quarters

6. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

7. ACTIVITY TIME 10 MIN

Heroes

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

LESSON SNAPSHOT

8. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

9. BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Pick a Hero

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pens or pencils
- ✓ Bibles for the class

TOTAL 80 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.

A LITTLE BIT MORE

Aliens

When we think of aliens, we think of monsters from outer space. But when the Bible speaks of aliens, like in Hebrews 11:13 NIV, it is referring to a people who are in a land that is not their own. As Christians, we have become aliens living in the world but longing for our own world, the one that is to come. We have become foreigners. We were once aliens to God, but now have become aliens to the world (Ephesians 2:19; 1 Peter 2:11, both NIV).

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**

What Was This Made Out Of?

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ nail
- ✓ penny
- ✓ pencil
- ✓ rubber band
- ✓ live houseplant
- ✓ whiteboard and dry-erase marker

The object of this lesson is to help the children see that everything we know was created out of nothing!

Line the objects up on a table and ask the children one by one what it is made of. Make a list on the board. When you get to the plant, ask them what it is made out of. A studious child might say carbon, water, and other trace minerals, but you are likely to stump most of them. Then ask them who made it.

Take them back to creation and ask them “What did God make the world out of?” (The answer is nothing.)

Then go back to the components of each of the manmade items. Perhaps for the nail they answered that it is made of iron. The follow-up question is “What is iron made from?” The correct answer is nothing, which is also the answer for every component of every object.

Then ask the class if we can prove that these objects were made out of nothing. (The answer is no. We believe it by faith.) Why do we believe it by faith? (Mainly because God’s Word tells us that it is true, but also because it makes sense.)

TEACHING/DISCUSSION

Select one of the object lessons to use to cover the teaching points.

OBJECT LESSON 2 **15 MIN****Our Hope Is in a Future Promise****SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ two eight-ounce chocolate bars
- ✓ shoe box with lid
- ✓ two quarters

Use this game to help communicate our future hope of heaven to the children.

For this exercise set the empty shoe box on a table in front of the class. Set aside the two eight-ounce chocolate bars where they cannot be seen. Ask for a volunteer and invite him forward. Give him a quarter, and ask him if you gave him the option of keeping the quarter or trading it for what is inside the box, which would he take? Remind him that there might not be anything in the box. As soon as he takes your offer, stop and give him what he settled for. If he wants what is in the box, take the quarter and then open the box to show there is nothing in it.

Do the exercise again with a second volunteer. This time show the class that you are placing two large eight-ounce candy bars in the box. Go through the whole exercise again, offering the child the same options. She will, of course hold out for the two large candy bars. When you get to the final opportunity, play it out a little bit. Ask her why she has so much faith to say no to the quarter. She will say that she knows that what is coming is better. Give her the chocolate bars.

Read Hebrews 11:1–16 and ask the class the following questions:

- Why did _____ (your second volunteer) choose the box?
(She knew there was something better coming.)
- Why did all these heroes of the faith in Hebrews 11 refuse to place their faith in worldly things?
(They knew there was something better coming.)
- How can their example help us in our walk with God?
(We know Jesus personally. If they had faith in God's plan, knowing as little as they did, we should have faith knowing the fullness of God's plan.)

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

Heroes

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils

Have the students draw a picture of one of the Old Testament heroes mentioned in Hebrews 11.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

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

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 20 MIN

Pick a Hero

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ paper and pens or pencils
- ✓ Bibles for the class

Read Hebrews 11 together. Explain to the children how the Old Testament heroes were looking forward to Christ. Distribute paper and pens or pencils and have the class write their answer to the following question: Who do you think demonstrated the greatest faith? Give a reason for your answer.

Give the class time to finish writing and then discuss the faith of the people mentioned in this passage. Make sure to connect their faith to a future hope. Give an opportunity for the students to share who they picked and why.