



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 75

BY FAITH

Without faith it is impossible to please God



MONDAY

THE STORY: HEBREWS 11:1-4

Faith is believing what we do not see. Faith is trusting God's Word. Unbelievers do not lack truth; they lack faith. They refuse to believe what they cannot see. People of faith believe what God says even if they cannot see it. We cannot always see but we can always read God's Word and believe it.

The writer of Hebrews turns to Creation for his first example. The Bible begins with these words: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). From the very 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. Even though it is rational, science cannot confirm it. But if the Spirit of God has made us alive, we will believe it is true. We believe not only because it is reasonable to do so, but also because God says it in His Word.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What does it mean to have faith? (Faith is belief in something you cannot see yet regard to be true.)

What do we believe as Christians? (We believe God's Word to be true in all it contains.)

PRAY:

Ask God to give every member of your family faith to believe the Word of God.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: HEBREWS 11:5-12

Without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith is the basic fundamental of Christianity. If a person has no faith, then he must conclude that God, who cannot be seen, does not exist. If someone denies God's existence, then he doesn't care to please Him.

But there is more to saving faith than believing that God exists. Those who believe in God but do not trust in God's Word are compared to demons, who know that God exists (see James 2:19) but who are not saved. Faith cannot save a person if what he or she trusts in is not Jesus and His gospel. Our faith must be in Christ. We must believe in God's plan as revealed in the Bible; we must believe the gospel. We must also trust God's Word. Believers demonstrate trust in God's Word by obeying it and agreeing with it.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Why is it not good enough to simply believe that God is real? (The demons know that God is real, but they do not please God. We need to trust in God's plan in Jesus Christ.)

How did Abraham believe in God's plan? (Abraham didn't know where he was going, but he was willing to go because God sent him.)

PRAY:

Pray that every member of your family would place their trust in God's plan for their lives and trust in Jesus as their Savior.



WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

THE STORY: HEBREWS 11:13,39,40

Abraham was “looking forward” to a future city whose builder and maker was God (see Hebrews 11:10). Moses regarded disgrace “for the sake of Christ” as greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward (see 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. Together with us who know Christ by name, they are made perfect.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How were the Old Testament heroes saved? (They were saved by faith, trusting in God’s plan for their redemption. They did not trust in their own works.)

What kind of faith must we demonstrate to be saved? (We must confess that Jesus is our Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised him from the dead [see Romans 10:9].)

PRAY:

Ask God to help each family member come to saving faith in Jesus.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: HEBREWS 11:14-38

The writer of Hebrews continues listing the men and women of faith pointing out their vision for a better country, a heavenly one. What an amazing thought

to consider that God opened their eyes to understand that their earthly home was temporary. They looked forward longing for a place where 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 all served to build their faith in a mighty God. As a result, they were strengthened to follow God and their faith lead them even though at the end of their lives they did not receive the promise.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How should our lives be the same as these great men of faith? (We too should live like strangers in this present world and look forward to the coming of the Messiah. Only this time it is not the first coming but the second when the curse of sin will be finally defeated.)

How can the pleasures, the things we like in this world, keep us looking downward at the world instead of looking forward to a better country? (We can love the things of this world more than the things of God. We are called to live in the world but not love it more than God and His kingdom. Although the pleasant treasures of this world are fine to enjoy, we can not allow them to distract us from our first love, Jesus.)

What things in the world are most likely to distract you? (Parents, help your children here see the temptations they face in this area. You might want to start by answering this question yourself first.)

PRAY:

Ask God to help each of you keep your eyes and your love toward God and heaven, a better country.



FRIDAY ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

THE STORY: PSALM 25:1-7

David prayed to God in the midst of his suffering. But he prayed for more than just relief from his temporal enemies. David looked forward to a Savior who, out of God's great mercy and love, would not remember the sins of his youth or his rebellious ways. Jesus is God's answer to David's prayer. When we look back at this Scripture, we see Jesus.

Paul wrote to Titus, saying, "But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:4-7).

TALK ABOUT IT:

Where do you see Jesus in this psalm? (Have your children look at the entire psalm and point out where they see Jesus or the plan of salvation by grace.)

Where do you see yourself in this psalm? (We can all see ourselves as sinners like David in need of a Savior. This psalm is particularly relevant for young people because David realized that even the sins of his youth needed forgiveness.)

PRAY:

Pray that God would pour out His gift of faith and save every member of your family.