



UNIT 21 | SESSION 4

WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH IN JESUS

HEBREWS 11

KEY PASSAGE:

Hebrews 11:6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How can we be saved? We are only saved through faith in Jesus.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

The Bible gives examples of people who had faith, but the true hero of the Bible is Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. We are saved from our sins by faith in Jesus.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

Faith is a common theme throughout the Bible. We may not find the word faith on every page; however, in nearly every description of what God expects of His people, there is at least an indication of faith. Throughout Scripture, we read that faith is the means by which God is pleased with His people as they chose to trust Him.

Hebrews 11 emphasizes the significance of faith by unpacking how God has been saving His people through faith from the beginning. From creation to the first family and on and on throughout the lives of individuals, tribes, and nations, God uses faith as the evidence of who belongs to His kingdom and the means by which He gives hope.

So, what exactly is faith? According to the author of Hebrews, “Faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen” (Heb. 11:1).

To be clear, this does mean that it is possible to have faith in something other than the truths of the Bible, the work of Christ, and the promises of God. We may place our faith in a future spouse, job, experience, or accomplishment; however, according to the Bible, only one object of faith is truly saving before God, and that is Jesus.

What is the object of your faith? Do you

have hope in the unseen promises of God? Does the object of your faith look more like a whimsical desire for your own good, or is it confidence in the wonderful work of a life-giving Savior? In the grand picture of life, there is no more important question than this because the object of your faith will most certainly determine the direction of your eternity.

The individuals described in Hebrews 11 put their faith in God’s promise of a coming Christ; therefore, their actions revealed their trust and dependence on the Lord. Ultimately, this produced faithfulness in their lives and blessing from God.

Hundreds of years from now, will your life be associated with this type of faith? Let the faith of Abraham, Sarah, Moses, and others inspire you to take risks in obedience to following Christ. Pray for a faith that actively trusts that God is who He says He is and holds tight to the confidence that God keeps His promises.

TERMS TO KNOW

Faith: the trustful human response to God’s self-revelation via His words and His actions. Faith yields in the believer a confidence or sense of assurance as he or she continues to trust God through His promises. (Heb. 11:1)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Do you have some incredible stories that your family or friends tell at special gatherings or holidays? Why are these stories so well remembered by your family or your friends?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “How Can We Please God?” on the activity page.

SAY “Sometimes we might think God will only be happy with us if we do a lot of good things or try to be a better person. But the Bible teaches us that God is pleased when we trust Him by faith. In today’s Bible story, we will learn how faith in Jesus is the only way to please God.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: FAITH MATCH



Before the session, write the following names on a dry erase board: Abel, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Joseph, Moses, and Rahab.

Form the kids into two teams and explain that you will read a description and they must say who it matches to on the dry erase board. Award teams a point for each correct answer. Read the following descriptions or choose your own:

- Led the Israelites through the Red Sea
- Offered Isaac as a sacrifice
- Offered God the firstborn of his flock
- Built the ark and saved his family
- Hid the Israelite spies in Jericho
- Had a baby when she was very old
- Went from a slave to being a leader in Egypt

SAY “Each of the people we described are also mentioned in our Bible story today because of their faith. Let’s learn how their lives showed they trusted in God.”

OPTION 2: THE FAITH OF JESUS

Before the session, write the Bible verse from Hebrews 12:2 on a large sheet of poster paper. Form kids into three groups and provide each group with a Bible and a set of two sticky notes.

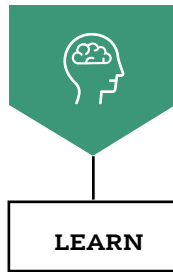
Assign each group with two of the following Bible verses: Mark 14:49; John 14:31; John 8:28-29; Philippians 2:8; Matthew 26:53-54; Matthew 27:30-31.

Lead each group to read their assigned Bible verses and write on their sticky notes how each verse shows Jesus trusted in God. Direct groups to place their sticky notes on the poster paper.

SAY “Hebrews 12:2 teaches us that Jesus is the source and finisher of our faith. Jesus is the source of faith because He is who we place our faith in, and He is the One who trusted God perfectly by following His plan. The verses you read showed how Jesus trusted God at all times, even to the point of finishing God’s plan by enduring the cross. Today, we will learn more about how Jesus is the true hero.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Hello, everyone. My name is [your name], and today we get to read from the book of Hebrews. We have learned that faith pleases God, but what does faith look like in the lives of ordinary people? In our Bible story, we will learn how people in the Old Testament chose to trust God even when they didn’t see God’s promise fulfilled.

If you brought a Bible, can you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Let’s turn to the book of Hebrews together as we get ready to hear our Bible story. [Guide kids to find Hebrews in their Bibles.] ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “ Let’s say our big picture question together. [Allow responses.] **How can we be saved?** And now let’s say the answer together. [Allow responses.] **We are only saved through faith in Jesus.**

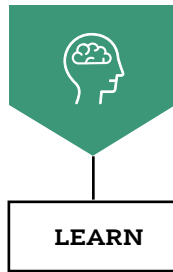
Even before the eternal Son of God came into the world, people were still saved by faith in Him. We can look back and believe by faith in all that Jesus said and did. But the people in the Old Testament had to look forward by faith as they trusted in God and His plan to bring the promised Messiah. **We are only saved through faith in Jesus.** ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ As Jesus began His ministry of miracles and teachings, not everyone responded in the same way. Some rejected Jesus. Others were amazed by Jesus and His miracles but didn’t understand Him. Last week, we learned that Peter had a right response to Jesus when He recognized that Jesus is God and worshiped Him.

Like Peter, we can believe that Jesus is God and respond in worship of Him. We can choose to put our faith in Him and believe He is the only way to be saved. In our story today, we will learn that long ago people placed their faith in God and obeyed Him because they trusted Him. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Hebrews 11. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “We Are Saved by Faith in Jesus.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH IN JESUS

“ In the book of Hebrews, we find a list of people who lived by faith. What is faith? Faith is being sure that what we hope for will actually happen. Faith is obeying God because we trust Him. By faith, we believe that God created everything from nothing, just by speaking!

Many people in the Bible had faith, and this pleased God. Abel had faith when he gave an offering to God, and God accepted his offering. We must have faith in order to please God because by faith we believe that He exists and that He rewards those who trust in Him.

Noah had faith too. He obeyed God by building an ark to rescue his family. Noah warned other people too because he trusted that God was telling the truth when He said a flood was coming. God was pleased with Noah.

Abraham had faith when God called him to leave his home. Abraham did not know where he was going, but he obeyed God. God made promises to Abraham, and Abraham believed that God was going to keep His promises.

Abraham’s wife Sarah had faith. She trusted God to give her a family even though she was too old to have children. Sarah was 90 and Abraham was 100 when they had their son Isaac. Abraham and Sarah went on to have many descendants. God gave them a family as numerous as the stars in the sky.

Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses had faith. Rahab had faith when she hid the Israelite spies in Jericho. King David had faith too. All of these people trusted God, and so did many others.

Having faith was not easy. Many of these faithful people suffered, and they all died before God’s greatest promise—the arrival of Jesus—came true, but they believed that God had a wonderful plan. God was pleased with them because they trusted Him.

We know today that God’s plan came true. He kept His promise to send the Messiah—His own Son, Jesus—to rescue people from sin.

Christ Connection: The Bible gives examples of people who had faith, but the true hero of the Bible is Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. We are saved from our sins by faith in Jesus. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Display Bible story posters: Choose some of the people mentioned and display past Bible story posters. Point to the posters when you mention them in the story.

Write the definition: Write the definition of faith on a dry erase board: *Faith is being sure that what we hope for will actually happen because we trust in God.* Remind kids what faith means throughout the story.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ In Hebrews 11, we read story after story about people in God’s family who trusted Him. Their faith in Him was not only said with their mouths, but their faith was also displayed through their obedience to Him. Even when their obedience brought ridicule, danger, and for some, death, they believed God more than their doubts, fears, and their comfort. They did not always know the outcome, but in one thing they were confident: God can be trusted.

Who were some of the people mentioned in our story? How did they display faith? [Allow responses.] From Abel to the prophets, the writer of Hebrews reminds us of all the ways people trusted God. They believed that God had a plan to save His people and bring them into His kingdom forever. Even though they did not see God’s plan come true on this earth, they still trusted Him.

What is God’s response to those who trust in Him by faith? Look at Hebrews 11:6. [Choose a volunteer to read Hebrews 11:6.] God rewards those that seek Him. And the greatest reward that God gives us is His Son, Jesus. When we trust in Him by faith, we are saved and will live with Him forever. Jesus is the true Hero of the Bible, who lived a perfect life of trust in God and died for our sins. **We are only saved through faith in Jesus.** ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ The Bible gives examples of people who had faith, but the true hero of the Bible is Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. We are saved from our sins by faith in Jesus. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 21, Session 4” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. When we feel like our faith is small and we doubt God’s promises, is this wrong? Explain.
2. How does Jesus’ faithfulness help strengthen your faith?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display a world map and point to the locations mentioned. Remind kids that George Liele (LIGH uhl) was an emancipated slave who became a missionary to people in Jamaica. Tell kids he was the first person to take the gospel from America to another country. Remind kids that he started the first African Baptist Church in North America and then sailed to Jamaica to tell others about Jesus.

SAY “ Ten years before William Carey went to India as a missionary, George Liele set sail for Jamaica to share the gospel. Not only was George Liele a great missionary and preacher, but he was also known for discipling Christians to be faithful to go to all nations and share Jesus with all people.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Many who came to know Jesus through Liele’s preaching later went on to become missionaries to places beyond Jamaica.”

Pray, thanking God for missionaries like George Liele who worked hard to tell people in Jamaica and other places about Jesus. Pray for missionaries serving in all countries around the world.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Hebrews 11:6 together.

Form kids into pairs and provide each pair with five index cards. Lead the pairs to write parts of the key passage on the index cards. Distribute a blindfold to each pair and direct kids to choose a partner to blindfold. Lead the kids without a blindfold to give directions to their blindfolded partner to help them place the index cards in the correct order of the key passage. Tell the kids that only the kids with the blindfold can touch the index cards.

SAY “ Like the people of faith in our Bible story, we can trust God even when we do not understand His plans or cannot see what lies ahead. We trust in Him and obey Him because we hope in the promises that are true for us in Jesus. ”

Lead kids to sing “Without Faith (Hebrews 11:6).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY “ God, we are grateful for Jesus and how we can be saved by Him through faith. Please help us live by faith and trust You in every circumstance. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**

