



Fruit of the Spirit

Faithfulness – Lesson 4

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1

Lesson Time Prep

Supplies:

Blocks

Towel or blanket

Male doll/puppet

Leaves

Have the kids use the large blocks to make a square perimeter of a house (only one row high so it is not falling over creating too much distraction). Leave an opening for the doorway. Have all but four kids sit inside the “house.” (It should be large enough for your class to sit inside but small enough to be crowded while they are all in it. Have the four remaining kids wait outside the house. Have one child on each corner to hold a towel or blanket with a male doll or puppet in the center. You will also need a handful of leaves.

Lesson Time

We have been learning about people who had great faith in God and what He could do. These people had such great faith that they did things that were considered kind of strange to other people. They knew that they could believe in God even if they could not see Him. Our memory verse tells us that: “Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1

Today’s story is about a man who was paralyzed. Being paralyzed means the man could not walk or use his legs. He would have had to sit or lay down all the time. Just think how different it would be to do things if you couldn’t walk around. How would you get to the bathroom? How different would playing games be?

Jesus was going around from town to town performing miracles and everyone wanted to see Him.

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So, as Jesus entered one of the homes in a town called Capernaum, people quickly gathered around Him. So many people came that there was no room left, not even outside the door.

I imagine that people were pushing each other a little bit to squeeze everyone in and get closer to Jesus. There were four men in town who decided to carry their paralyzed friend on a mat to see Jesus. Have the kids carry the “man” on the towel/blanket to the doorway and wait outside unable to get in. They believed Jesus could heal Him. When they got to the house, they realized that they wouldn’t be able to get through to see Jesus. They tried the door, but there was no way they were going to get through. There were so many people in the house.

The man was probably pretty heavy. He and his friends were probably kind of discouraged that they couldn’t get in to see Jesus. What would you do? Would you give up and go back home? Would you wait around in the back of the crowd hoping to see Jesus or would you do *anything* to get to Him?

These men had so much faith in what Jesus could do that they didn’t stop there. They decided to climb the stairs on the outside of the house and dig through the roof to get to Jesus. Have the four kids pretend they are climbing stairs and digging with their hands reaching over the top of the “house.” The roof back then was probably made from mud and leaves and branches and would have been flat. It was not slanted and covered in wood and shingles like the roof on your house probably is.

Can you imagine? I wonder what Jesus and the other people thought when the dirt and leaves and pieces of the roof started falling in on them. Throw a handful of leaves up and let them fall over the kids in the “house.” These men were not going to give up just because a crowd surrounded Jesus. They believed in Him and had to see Him no matter what it took.

Then the friends lowered the paralyzed man down through the roof. Help the children lower the “man” on the towel down into the “house.” Have the children make room inside the “house” for the towel to be placed onto the floor.

When Jesus saw their faith he said to the man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Some of the other people who were there didn’t believe that Jesus was God’s son. They were thinking, “How dare this man say he forgives sin. Only God can do that.” Jesus had the authority on earth to forgive sins. He was the one God sent to forgive sins and heal people. So, Jesus told the paralyzed man, “I tell you get up. Take your mat and walk home.” The man got up and took his mat. Then the paralyzed man walked away while everyone watched. The people praised God and said, “We have never seen anything like this!”

The man was not only forgiven but healed because of his great faith. He was willing to live out his faith and take action even at the cost of looking really silly by going down through a roof.

We have learned about how Noah, Abraham, and the paralyzed man and his friends believed and lived out great faith and trust in God. This is the kind of faith we need to have. A faith that is so BIG we will do anything to have Jesus. To have faith like this we must first believe there is nothing more valuable – no greater treasure than Jesus and His Kingdom. When we demonstrate faith by a willingness to obey and follow Him; Jesus will say “Your sins are forgiven!” Then the Holy Spirit can produce *faithfulness* in our lives.

Prayer Time

Activity Time

The goal of this time is to utilize a variety of engaging activities –passive and active play, crafts, application, and more – to reinforce what was taught in the lesson. While you may not get to every activity, we encourage you to complete the “Take-Home” activity so children leave with a tangible reminder of what was discussed today.

If numbers are high and/or time and space allow, you may want to use a center format: divide the class into groups (one for each activity) and rotate through the centers after an allotted time.



“Simon Says”

Have the class stand up and play a round of "Simon Says." When the children respond to a command that begins with the phrase "Simon Says," they remain in the game. If they respond to a command without the command "Simon Says," they are eliminated and must sit down. When the game is over, explain to the class that we need to respond to the Lord's commands with instant obedience. Even though we do not always understand why Jesus tells us to do certain things, when we obey, we show our faith in Him.



The Mat Race

Supplies:

Two towels or blankets

Two dolls/puppets/stuffed animals from Lesson Time

First, divide the class into two teams. Have the kids in each team grab part of the bath towel (corners or sides) and stretch it out to make it like a trampoline. The teams will start at one end of the room, and while staying together keeping hold of the towel, race to the other end of the room. At this end, you will put a doll/puppet/stuffed animal on the top of the outstretched towel. Then the teams will race back to where they started while attempting to keep the doll from falling. This game will help reinforce the story about the man lowered down on a mat from the roof in Mark 2:1-12.



Craft

Supplies:

Brown paper lunch bags with tops cut down (1 per child)

Tape

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Glue sticks
Hole punch
Cardstock 2x3
Man cutout
House cutout
Piece of yarn

Have children glue the house picture onto the front of the paper bag. Then have them glue their man to the cardstock. Then let them color the house and man while you come around and hole punch. Tie (or tape) the string to the mat and the house together so they can lower the man into the house.



Faith on Track

Supplies:
Wide masking tape

You will need wide masking tape for this activity. With masking tape, make a trail (a line of masking tape) for the children to walk on. Weave and loop around and zigzag across the room. Make it join ends so that it is continuous. Split the children into two even teams. Start at opposite sides of the room with each team. When you say “go” each team should start. They need to go in opposite directions (they should end up going toward each other as they loop around). Explain to the children that their feet cannot step down anywhere except on the line. If they cross paths make sure the boys say excuse me and allow the girls to go first (they should not bump into each other as long as you make areas that cross over in your trail). If someone’s foot comes off of the taped line have them start over.



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