



LESSON 85

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: As Christians, we walk by faith.

Bible Character(s): Old Testament characters

Scripture Reference: Hebrews 11



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Hebrews 11. Faith is the foundation of Christianity and at times one of the most difficult things to hold onto. Hebrews 11 is a powerful piece of encouragement for Christians to hold on to faith. It is a look back at the lives of those Old Testament characters who inspire us with their tremendous faith. It is a reminder to put aside our worries, our “what ifs,” and our fears and hold on to faith.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival, meet their parents, welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Puzzle

Have a jigsaw puzzle or puzzles set up for the campers to try to put together. The campers will not have the picture to look at, just pieces of the puzzle.



BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will talk about the importance of faith.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn about in Big Group? Was it easy for the staff member to walk with the blindfold on? (He needed the other Staff Member to guide him.) Did the other staff member guide him in the right direction? (No. He led him into a tree, almost off the stage, and almost into the fire.)

This week we are going to learn that as Christians, we walk as if we are blindfolded. We cannot see what's ahead. We simply trust God to lead us. Let's begin reading the Bible in Hebrews 11:1-3[NLT].

Hebrews 11:1-3

1 Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. 2 Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. 3 By faith we understand that the entire universe was formed at God's command, that what we now see did not come from anything that can be seen.

Faith is like being blindfolded. When you were trying to put the puzzle together earlier without being able to see the picture, was it difficult? It would have been easier if you could see the picture. God doesn't show us what's ahead. He wants us to trust Him for each step, knowing He will lead us. Is it easy to trust what you cannot see? Scientists have been trying to explain how the universe was formed for a very long time. It's like they've been trying to put a puzzle together without seeing the picture. Only God has the picture. Only He knows how the universe was formed. He simply asks us to trust that He formed it.

Hebrews 11:4

4 It was by faith that Abel brought a more acceptable offering to God than Cain did. Abel's offering gave evidence that he was a righteous man, and God showed his approval of his gifts. Although Abel is long dead, he still speaks to us by his example of faith. 5 It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—"He disappeared, because God took him." For before he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God. And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."

Do you remember the story of Cain and Abel? Abel loved God and gave his best as an offering to God. His brother was so jealous he killed him. Enoch was faithful to God. God took him straight to heaven without Enoch even having to die. The faith of both men was rewarded with eternal life with God. They were faithful to God and he rewarded them.

Hebrews 11:7

7 It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.

Did you know that it had not even rained before Noah built the ark? It's true. He listened to God and believed in something that had never happened. Noah put his faith in God and God rewarded that faith.

Walk by Faith



The purpose is to help campers realize Christians walk by faith.

Supplies:

Bandana (1 per bin)

Candy (1 piece per camper)

Divide campers into partners. Put the candy in one particular area of the room. Starting across the room from the candy, have the “seeing” partner lead the “blind” partner to the candy using only verbal directions. Then have them switch roles and start over. Do this until each pair has a chance to go.

Tie It Together



You had to follow the directions of a friend to get to your reward. Was it easy? Were any of you a little afraid or nervous? As Christians, we simply need to trust the directions of God. We can't see Him. We can't see anything ahead of us. It can be a little scary. Faith isn't easy. God loves us more than our minds can conceive. He says in Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the plans I have for you. They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” We can trust that He will lead us to a good place.

Hebrews 11:8-10

8 It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. 9 And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. 10 Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God.

Abraham left everything familiar to him and followed God. He didn't know where he was going. He trusted God. Even when Abraham got to the land God had for him, everything wasn't perfect. He and his family were treated like outsiders. They continued to have faith that God would do what He promised. In Jeremiah 29:11, we read earlier that God's plans are for our good. That doesn't mean we live problem free lives. Just like Abraham, we sometimes have to hold on through the bad times, knowing God will keep His promises. We live by faith that God has good planned for us and that He keeps his promises.

Faith for Each Step



The purpose is to help the campers understand that we walk by faith for each step.

Supplies:

Jeremiah 29:11 cardstock half sheet (1 per camper)
Adhesive magnetic tape (1 small piece per camper)
Markers

Give each camper a Jeremiah 29:11 half sheet. Have campers draw a foot (or you can have each camper remove one shoe and trace his or her foot on the half sheet if the class size and dynamics make sense) on the half sheet. Then have them write "Walk by Faith" at the top of the foot to remind them that God is in control and we do not need to be afraid, but should have faith in Him and His plan for our lives. Lastly, let each camper stick a small piece of magnetic tape to the back so they can hang the foot on the refrigerator.

Tie It Together



Abel, Enoch, Noah, and Abraham are just a few of the Old Testament characters mentioned in Hebrews 11. The scripture goes on to talk about others, including Moses who had faith to stand up to the Pharaoh and ask for the Israelites to be freed. We've talked about how difficult it is to trust when we cannot see. Hebrews 11 is a scripture that encourages us to remember all those who had faith before us. God rewarded them for their faith. Just as He kept His promises to them, He will keep His promises to us. Just as He rewarded them for their faith, He will reward us for ours.

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time.

Thank you, God, for giving us the scripture in Hebrews 11 to remind us to have faith. You promise that if we have faith in You, You will reward us. Help us to have faith even when we are afraid and filled with worry. Amen.



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