



Heroes of Faith

Bible Story: Heroes of Faith – Hebrews 11:1–12:2

Bottom Line: The Bible tells us about people who lived by faith.

Memory Verse: “¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

Christ Connection: *The Bible gives examples of people who had faith, but the true hero of the Bible is Jesus. Jesus looked forward to the joy that would come because of the cross. Because of Jesus, the things the faithful people in the Bible looked forward to will come true. We know that Jesus will come back one day because God always keeps His promises.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

DROP DEAD DICE GAME

Objective: to score as many points as possible. At the start of the game players determine either 1) the target score; or 2) how many rounds they will play.

What you need:

- **5 six-sided dice.** Preferably 5 dice per player.
- **Pen and paper** for keeping score.
- **2 or more enthusiastic players**
- *Optional: throwing cups.* We made our own from cardboard tubes and paper cups.

Rules:

Roll one die to see who goes first. The player with the highest roll starts.

Player one throws all five dice. If his roll contains a 5 or a 2 he scores no points, removes any dice showing a 5 or 2 and re-rolls the remaining dice. If the roll does not contain a 5 or a 2, he adds up the total, records it on the score card and rolls all five dice again. He continues in this way until all the dice are removed from play. Play continues with the next player.

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

GAME, SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

SUPER BREATH

What You Need: 20 mini marshmallows per player, A straw for each player

What You Do:

- Spread the 20 marshmallows across the top of a table.
- Did you know Superman hates marshmallows? Just kidding! But if he had to, Superman could clear this table with one puff of his mighty super breath.
- Your task is to clear the table in 60 seconds or less by using the breath you push through a straw.
- Complete this challenge before time expires, and you'll win a prize.

What You Say: Today in our story we will hear about other “Heroes of the Faith”. Before we start the story, let's sing together.

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

Today's Passage

¹ Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.² This is what the ancients were commended for.

³ By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. **Hebrews 11:1-3**

³⁹ These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised,⁴⁰ since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect. **Hebrews 11:39-40**

Context

This Bible story looks back at some people from the Old Testament. The Bible says that these people lived by faith. Now, what does that mean? What does it mean to live by faith? Well, faith is being sure that what we hope for will actually happen. It means obeying God because we trust Him. So it means not just saying you trust God but showing it by how you live. This pleases God.



Abel had faith when he gave an offering to God. God accepted his offering. Noah had faith. What did Noah do? [Allow kids to respond.] That's right. He trusted God that a flood was coming. The people around Noah probably thought he was crazy! But he obeyed God and built an ark.

Abraham had faith when God called him to leave his home. Do you think Abraham had any doubts or questions for God? God didn't give Abraham a detailed plan of his future, but Abraham obeyed God because he trusted Him. God is pleased when we have faith.

It was hard for Sarah to believe God when He said she was going to have a baby. At first, she laughed! Sarah was 90 years old! But Sarah had faith, and God grew her family.

The Old Testament tells us about many other people who had faith: Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, and King David. Having faith isn't easy, but God always keeps His promises.

Today's Takeaways

- **BL:** The Bible tells us about people who live by faith so that we will live by faith.
- They trusted that God is who He says He is and that we would do what He says He will do.
- When we live by faith, life isn't always easy, but God can always be trusted.

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit and follow Jesus.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

- How did the writer of Hebrews define faith? See Hebrews 11:1.
- How does knowing the stories of the Old Testament help us to live by faith?
- What can you do this week to trust God like the people we learned about today?

Activity: Bible story review & Bible skills

What You Need: Bibles, red cards (1 per kid), green cards (1 per kid)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a small red card and a small green card.
- Instruct the kids to hold up the red card each time you read a statement that is false.
- Kids will hold up their green card if the statement is true.
- After each false statement, choose a kid to explain what was wrong with the statement.

What You Say: Say each of these statements, waiting to kids to answer in between.

Statements:

- Faith is hoping for something you know can never happen. (*False, it is being certain of something you hope will happen; Heb. 11:1*)
- God is pleased when people live by faith. (*true, Heb. 11:2*)
- Noah built the ark because of his faith in God. (*true, Heb. 11:7*)
- Sarah had a son because she had faith in God. (*true, Heb. 11:11*)
- Rahab welcomed the spies into Jericho even though she had no faith. (*False, she had faith; Heb 11:31*)
- Faith always made life easier for people. (*False, many people suffered for their faith; Heb. 11:36-37*)
- Jesus is the source of our faith, and our faith is made perfect in Him (*true, Heb. 12:2*)

"The Bible tells us about people who lived by faith. Having faith doesn't mean you believe something without any evidence. Faith means that you are confident of something because you trust the person who promised it.

We know that God always keeps His promises, so when we read His Word, we can have faith that He will accomplish everything He said He will. God has already sent Jesus, just as He promised. Jesus will return someday too, just as He promised! In the meantime, believers live new lives by faith. **Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God's glory."**

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: "Key Passage Poster", white board, Markers, eraser

What You Do:

- On a dry erase board or chalkboard, write out the key passage.
- Invite a volunteer to read the verse for the class and then erase one word.
- Invite another kid to do the same, erasing a second word.
- Continue in this way until kids have erased all the words and are saying the verse from memory.

What You Say "Great job with that key passage. There is still time to memorize it, so keep working on it. This verse is from 2 Corinthians, one of the books of the Bible written by the apostle Paul. Paul wanted the Corinthians to know that the sin in their lives was



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against God's will for them and showed that they didn't fully understand the gospel. When we trust in Jesus, we are new creations, changed inside and out. **Who changes us? The Holy Spirit changes us to be like Jesus for God's glory.**"

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Say:

"God, thank You for the Bible and for the examples of faithful people who lived before us. Change our hearts and help us faithfully serve You more each day. Let us give You glory. We love You. Amen.

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, ask kids to share what they learned about people who lived before Jesus who are considered heroes. As dad's arrive encourage kids to thank their dad for being a hero too.