

one truth

FAITH

WEEK TWO GOAL

Students should learn the true meaning of faith.

WEEK TWO LESSON MATERIALS

None in this lesson

Lesson Overview:

Too often, the idea of faith is hidden inside a Christian vernacular that even Christians do not understand. It comes across as a mystical force, reserved for special believers. That is not the case. In this lesson, we will define faith according to the Bible. We will see that faith is not just belief, but belief with action.

Lesson Procedure:

Let's Move:

Start the session with a game of trust. Have one student stand on a chair (be safe) and fall blindly into the arms of a team of students. Repeat the fall, but have the team lower themselves closer to the floor. Repeat this until the student falls almost to the floor. Explain to the students,

In this lesson, we will learn about this kind of trust. Could (the falling student) claim to trust the team if he refused to fall? Of course not. We will see that this applies to the Biblical subject of faith.

Session Video:

Show students the session 2 video, "Learning Christian-ese."

To the Lesson:

One thing that scares people away from Christianity is the language barrier. Christians speak a language that is not spoken anywhere in the world. It is called Christian-ese. We take church words and make them seem mysterious and mystical. This happens with the word "faith." That word seems like a foreign concept to someone who doesn't go to church. Sadly enough, it also seems foreign to many who do go to church. In this lesson, we will clearly define faith.

I. Ask the students,

How would you define faith? People teach the concept of faith in different ways. Some compare it to trusting a chair. Others compare faith to falling blindly into a friend's arms. Let's break the definition down. The original word in the Bible for faith is the Greek word pistis. It literally means, "persuasion, moral conviction, or trust." This is the simplest definition: faith=trust or confidence. However, throughout the Bible, we find that faith is a little more than just trust.

II. Read Luke 17:5-10, and ask the students,
How did Jesus answer their request?

To many,
Christian-ese
may as well be
Chinese.

Faith: *pistis,*
persuasion,
moral
conviction,
or trust.

a. The disciples were overwhelmed by Jesus' commands and cried, "Increase our faith!" They were saying, "Make us able to follow your commands." This gives us some insight into faith. We see that we can ask for more faith. Jesus did not rebuke the disciples for asking. In fact, He answers their request.

b. Jesus answers the disciples' request with two unlikely answers.

i. First, Jesus says that the faith of a mustard seed can cast a giant tree into the sea. This verse is often misunderstood. Jesus speaking in what is called "superlative language." This means He is exaggerating to make a point. Nowhere in the Bible are we asked to throw trees or move mountains. He is saying that, "a little faith goes a long way." It does not mean that if you cannot move mountains that you have no faith.

ii. Second, Jesus asks the disciples a question. Ask the students, *What did Jesus ask them?* He asked them, "How many of you, after your slave worked all day in the field, would fix your slave dinner before eating your own dinner?" The obvious answer is that the slave would not get to shower, rest, or eat until the master had been fed. They would need to serve the king before serving themselves. Jesus wanted the disciples to understand that faith means doing what one knows they should do, even when they may not want to do it.

c. This gives us some insight into faith. Just as a faithful servant, faith is not just trusting the master, but obeying the master. Think of the chair analogy. Faith is not simply trusting the chair to hold you. Faith begins when you sit in the chair. Faith has two parts: believing what is right and doing it. Faith=belief + action.

III. If we want to utilize the spiritual gift of faith, we must understand this concept. Having faith means being faithful. Jesus taught this concept in Luke 17, but it is also found elsewhere in the Bible.

a. Read James 2:14-19, and ask the students *How would you describe the words in verse*

Faith=Trust or Confidence

What was Jesus saying? A little faith goes a long way!

17? James made it clear that faith, or belief, without action is not really faith at all. He calls it a dead faith.

b. Ask the students,

What does this mean for us? (Give students time to discuss this question.) Think of it this way. Someone claims to believe the Bible, yet they do not honor their father and mother. Is that a life filled with faith? No. What if someone claims to believe the Word of God that says, "You were fearfully and wonderfully made," but constantly talks bad about himself. That is not a life filled with faith. What about a high school senior who claims to believe when the Bible says, "I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to give you a hope and future," but never asks God's opinion on which college to attend.

c. Claiming to have faith without being faithful is like claiming to be a football player who doesn't play football. If you want to use the gift of faith in your life, you must know what God says, believe what God says, and do what God says.

Conclusion:

The first step to having faith in your life is having faith that Jesus died for your sins and accepting the gift of salvation. After salvation, God wants us to live in faith. If we would only believe the Word of God and live according to that Word, there is no end to how God will work in our lives. Try it!

Faith=
Belief +
Action

Claiming to
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3 FAITH

LESSON TWO

Defining Faith

The word for faith is the Greek word _____. It literally means, “persuasion, moral conviction, or _____.”

Increase our Faith

Jesus is saying that, “_____.”

Faith means _____ what one knows they should do, even when they may not _____ to do it.

Faith = _____ + _____.

The Faithful Faith

Having faith means being _____.

If you want to use the gift of faith in your life, you must

_____ what God says, _____ what

God says, and _____ what God says.