

Faith – in the face of anything!

Opening Discussion:

Kids sometimes learn best by example. As we talk about definitions of “faith”, it can sometimes still seem to be a confusing term. We want to make sure our faith is in the right thing—in the trustworthiness of God alone. But how does that play out in practical daily life?

There are a lot of conflicting distractions and directions that tug at their attention, especially in times of transition. Their “normal” has changed. **One of the great principles of faith is that it looks forward to promises to come.** Faith is not based on what we do or what we see, but who God is. This lesson aims to remind our kids that our hope is fixed on God, and that He is our compass and guide no matter what. We get anxious or confused, but He is our ultimate audience. As examples, we will take a look at some key figures that the Bible lists as leading examples of living out faith.

- **Lesson focus:** We can look at examples in Scripture to learn about faith in action, and contemplate how our lives demonstrate faith when we look to God for hope and help. (*You may read the entire passage to the kids, but if it seems to long, just cover the bolded text covering Noah & Moses.)

Bible text: Hebrews 11:1-12:3

Bible Lesson:

So, what is faith? We have talked about it a little bit, and related it to how you might trust an adult or something that is going to happen. What does faith mean, according to the Bible? Have students take turns reading, or listening, to the passages in Scripture.

Start with Hebrews, at the beginning of chapter 11:

Hebrews 11:1 -

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ²This is what the ancients were commended for. -Hebrews 11:1-2

Discussion:

- What does that mean? It means we are looking forward to something that has not happened yet. If you trust and hope in something in the future, you have faith that it will be something valuable. Can you think of a time in your life when you had to have faith??
- How about in the Bible? Invite the kids to brainstorm Biblical examples of faith, and then take a look at a few from Hebrews:

Read: Hebrews 11:7-12:

⁷ It was by faith Noah heard God's warnings about things that he could not yet see. He obeyed God and built a large boat to save his family. By his faith, Noah showed that the world was wrong. And he became one of those who are made right with God through faith.

⁸ It was by faith Abraham obeyed God's call to go to another place that God promised to give him. He left his own country, not knowing where he was to go. ⁹ It was by faith that he lived in the country God promised to give him. He lived there like a visitor who did not belong. He lived in tents with Isaac and Jacob, who had received that same promise from God. ¹⁰ Abraham was waiting for the city^[a] that has real foundations—the city planned and built by God.

¹¹ He was too old to have children, and Sarah was not able to have children. It was by faith that Abraham was made able to become a father. Abraham trusted God to do what he had promised.^[b] ¹² This man was so old that he was almost dead. But from him came as many descendants as there are stars in the sky. They are as many as the grains of sand on the seashore that cannot be counted.

Discuss

So, what did these “faith heroes” do? They believed in God’s promises. They didn’t know exactly how those promises would come true, but they were willing to do some wild things because they trusted that the outcome would be great. They did not do amazing things on their own power, but through their trust and hope in God. God did the work.

Let’s look at some more faith fathers:

Read: Hebrews 11:24-39 -

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. ²⁷ By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. ²⁸ By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days. ³¹ By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient. ³² And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. ³⁵ Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection. ³⁶ Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were put to death by stoning;^[e] they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— ³⁸ the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground. -Hebrews 11:24-38

Discuss:

Talk about what sort of beliefs and trust it takes to endure some of these challenges. Faith isn't always easy! It isn't always comfy, and it doesn't always seem like things are working out for us in this life. The great thing, though, is that we have an amazing promise from God. Even if this earthly life passes away, great things await us someday:

Read: Hebrews 11:39 – 12:3:

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. Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. -Hebrews 11:39-12:3

Closing Discussion:

What kinds of things might "hinder and entangle" us? What distracts us? Sometimes we worry over life's details. Maybe it's school, or upcoming things, or sports, or friends, or any number of potential fears. It can be easy to lose sight of what is important. These verses remind us that God has wonderful things planned. We cannot always see them, but we trust His promises. When we "fix our eyes on Jesus", it means we remember what He has already done for us, and rejoice in it. Faith allows us to focus on God, rather than our troubles. This can be easier said than done, to be sure. But think about what He has done, and what He will do. God loves us and provides for us. We can thank Him for that. We can ask for His help. And we can rest assured that His promises will come true, because He is faithful!

End in Prayer:

Thank God for all He has given. Thank Him for Jesus and ask for help in our faith, as well as understanding and assurance of His power in our lives.

****See next page for Craft & Coloring Pages:**

Craft & Coloring Pages:

Choose one or both Coloring pages – (Noah & Moses).

Craft: Print out Faith Cloud then click on link for instructions to make rainbow cloud for kids to hang on their door knob or wall.

<https://www.fun365.orientaltrading.com/project/noahs-ark-rainbow-craft>

Additional Resources – Here is a little video from Saddleback Kids about the “Hall of Faith Heroes”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OlgXVihi_S8

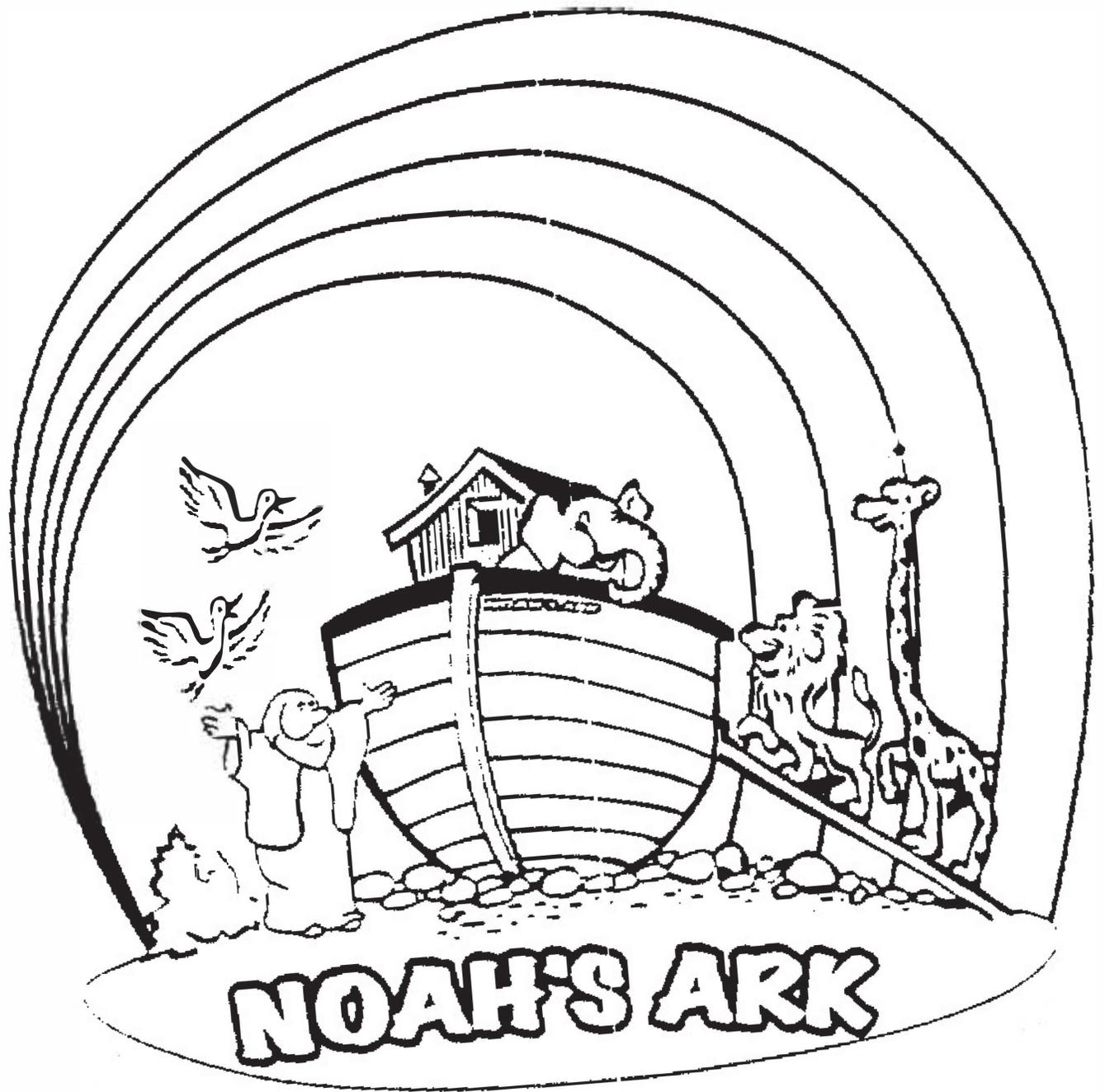
Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went! Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe.

Have a Blessed Day & Week!

Until we can meet again ~

Teacher Chrissy





NOAH'S ARK

God is

Faithful

He keeps His promises!

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