

Dear Parents,

Here are some activities to do with your children but as before, please adapt where needed.

Clare

AIM of SESSION

The aim of this session is to think about what “Faith” in the bible looks like. Sometimes it is easy to have “Faith”, when we can see answers to our prayers or God’s daily provision, but other times it’s more difficult.

Hopefully through this session the children will more fully understand the concept of Biblical Faith – a Faith of such trust and confidence that they (and us!!) truly believe that God is Able!

Getting Started / Intro – Whole World

Equipment

Pens and paper, maps of the world for each group

Ask the children to get into groups of four and give each group a world map to look at. If possible, use photocopied maps that the children can draw on. If not, give out paper as well.

Ask the children to look at the map of the world and think of all the natural things that we depend on for life (water, fresh air, summer and winter, crops growing, etc.) They should write these down either on the map or on paper.

After two minutes ask each group to read out their lists.

Ask the group who provides these things and what would happen to us if they suddenly stopped happening. You could add suggestions such as gravity, which we take for granted but which stop us floating into space!

Finish by saying that God created the world and He provides all these things for us every day. We can have faith in this God, because He takes care of us all the time!

The Point: To think about the things that God provides for us all the time, we have faith in Him for these things even if we don't realise it!

Bible Study – “A Servant Healed”

Equipment

Lining paper with a picture drawn on with a candle. Watery paint and a pint brush.

Before the session use a candle to draw a picture of a man lying on a bed on a large sheet of lining paper. Below it, draw a picture of the same man standing up looking completely well.

As you begin this activity place the paper - which looks blank - where all the children can see it, and have a pot of watered down paint beside you so that you can paint over the paper to reveal the picture as you talk.

Ask the children how they know when God has heard a prayer?

Does he always hear prayer? Does he always answer?

How do you know when He has answered?

How do you feel when you are waiting for an answer?

Say that often we don't really believe that God has heard us until we get what we were praying for and if we don't get it we begin to lose faith in him, when actually God might just have said no!

Some people seem to have more faith than others. Can you think of any reasons why that might be so? (Let the children make suggestions. One reason is that some people have chosen to trust God for more things in the past and have therefore seen Him answer more!)

Tell this story, based on Luke 7:1-10 (*As you begin to narrate this part of the story begin to paint over your picture to reveal the top half.*)

The man in today's story had a lot of faith. He was a centurion. He was a Roman soldier in charge of 100 other soldiers. One day, this Centurion's servant became ill – the Centurion was worried that he would die. But the Centurion had heard about Jesus, and he asked some of the Jews to go and see Jesus and to ask Him to heal his servant.

The Jews agreed because this was a “good” Roman! He had even paid for a new Synagogue for them to worship God in.

Jesus agreed to come and see the Centurion.

But when Jesus was still on his way the Centurion sent a servant to him with a message.

What message do you think he sent? (Let the children make suggestions.)

He said, “Don't come to my house.” Why do you think he said that?

He said, “I am not good enough for you to bother to visit my house. I know that even if you just say the words my servant will be made better. I understand about authority - if I say, “do this!” the man I speak to goes and does it. You're the same. Whatever you say happens!”

Jesus was amazed. “What faith!” he exclaimed. “I've never come across such strong faith!”

And when the servant who had taken the message got home, the sick servant was well.

Ask the children why the Centurion had such strong faith? What did he understand about Jesus?

How can understanding this help us to have more faith?

NOTE: You could ask all the children to draw pictures with candles of someone healed, so they can all paint over them to reveal the picture at the end of the story.

The Point: We need to have faith like that of the Centurion; faith that trusts Jesus and doesn't need outward signs.

Craft Idea – I Rest my Faith

Equipment

Clay, card and pens.

Give out clay and ask the children to make themselves a cross shape. The cross should be smoothed and the children can decorate it with patterns using a plastic knife or dead match stick. Place the cross on a piece of card, either laying down or standing up depending on the size of the cross!

When the crosses are finished, the children should write or draw pictures of the things that we have faith in God for because of the cross. For instance, sins forgiven, the hope of heaven, the hope of seeing people who have already died in heaven, the fact that Jesus is our friend and hears our prayers.

Children should stick their pictures onto the card around the cross.

Encourage them to take the cross home and place it somewhere prominent so that they can remember that we CAN trust Jesus! The fact that Jesus actually died for us should give us confidence to have faith in Him for anything else!

The Point: This activity provides a reminder for the children to take home.

Video Clip and Discussion

Go onto “You Tube” and search for:

The True Story of Trust and Faith - Blondin; The Greatest Tightrope Walker in History

You will see a 1 minute 40 seconds video clip of the Tightrope Walker Charles Blondin

Read James 2: 19-22

Q – Is there more to having Faith than just believing that God exists?

Q – How did Abraham prove he had faith in God

Q – Why can't you have Faith without works?

Q – What sorts of things do you think God wants us to do to show that our Faith is Real?

Memory Verse – “Sweet Faith!

Equipment

A box and a sweet for each child.

Without faith it is impossible to please God.

Hebrews 11:6(a)

Bring a jewel box to the meeting. In the box, put a sweet. Stand the children in a circle and ask one of the children if they have faith that there might be a sweet in the box. Ask them for a reason for their faith.

Then ask the child to tell you the memory verse. If they say it correctly, lift the lid and give them the sweet.

Repeat this exercise with each child. That way they will all have said the verse and will have a reward for doing so!

The Point: To encourage young people to learn the Bible.