

Faith is Trusting God Everyday!

Week 3:

The Big Point: Faith is Trusting God Everyday!

God's Word: Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22:1-19)

Memory Verse: Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1)

Application: I choose faith and trust God everyday!

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Series Aim: To help kids understand that having faith is an everyday decision to believe God, based on knowing God.

Creative Video:  Abraham's Big Test - The Bible App for Kids

TEACHER'S WORD STUDY!

♥ CENTRE YOUR HEART!

Why we do what we do

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and what we believe in. It is being sure of what we do not see. Just like how we believe in God who we cannot see. The journey of believing in Jesus is a journey of faith, and faith is not about not having doubts but choosing to believe God everyday! In this series, we follow Abraham as he journeyed with God through many seasons, struggling through but choosing faith and eventually becoming God's chosen person to be the Father of many nations.

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♥ Prayer Points

Keep the Kids and the Kingdom in our hearts!

Let's pray for the following (and feel free to add on your own!) :

- For kids to learn that faith is an everyday decision to believe and trust in God, even when we don't see Him or don't understand why.
- For kids to learn that having faith does not mean having no doubts.
- For kids to learn that obeying God is choosing to have faith and trust in Him.
- For kids to learn that faith in God means choosing to believe God's promise even though it takes a long time to come true.
- For kids to learn that faith is a choice to be made everyday in a promise-keeping God.

- For kids to know Abraham's life story and how he chose to believe in God even though may not understand.
- For kids to be encouraged to choose faith everyday!

♥ Glossary

Explain using the same terms and language!

Faith: to have faith is to have the continuous belief and hope in the promises of God, no matter what happens.

Hope: to have a sure belief in the sureness of God's reality and how Jesus will come back again

Believe: to believe is to accept something or someone as true, and have faith, confidence and trust.

Trust: to trust is to believe in something or someone. It also expresses the idea of relying and placing your hope in something or someone. In our case, it is in God/Jesus.

Obey: to obey is to follow and do as what you were asked or instructed to do.

Promise: To be sure to do what you say you will do, or to be sure that something will happen

♥ Memory Verse Write Up

Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1

This memory verse is the starting point of this whole series on faith, helping us to know that faith is simply to believe in God, in what God says and what He promised. When we hope for things in God, we can be sure of it despite not seeing it yet in the physical world. Having faith does not mean not having doubts but choosing to believe in God and what He says everyday - it is an everyday decision to believe in God again. We can believe in God simply because faith in God is like an assurance and a conviction. It is not a vague hope grounded in imaginary, wishful thinking. Instead, faith is a settled confidence that

something in the future—something that is not yet seen but has been promised by God—will actually come to pass because God will bring it about.

GROW DEEP ROOTS!

Understand the Big Point's focus

In this Everyday Faith series, we hope to help kids realise and understand that faith is not a one-time decision to believe and trust in God, but it's an on-going journey and an everyday decision that we need to make again and again. Through the story of Abraham, we hope for children to see and realise that faith is indeed a decision we need to make again and again when the seasons and situations around us call for it. We will also see through the journey of Abraham's life that faith grows and increases as we journey with God and get to know God more and more. The more we get to know God, the more we are able to have faith and trust in God. May the children be inspired and encouraged to choose faith everyday!

READ Genesis 22:1-19, Hebrews 11: 1, 17-19

Hebrews 11:1 - The Definition of Faith

The premise of this series is centred around Hebrews 11:1, which defines to us what biblical faith is - the continuous belief and hope in the promises of God, no matter what happens.

By saying how faith is "being sure", the author indicates that biblical faith is not a vague hope grounded in imaginary, wishful thinking. Instead, faith is a settled confidence that something in the future—something that is not yet seen but has been promised by God—will actually come to pass because God will bring it about. Biblical faith is not blind trust in the face of contrary evidence, not an unknowable "leap in the dark". Instead, biblical faith is a confident trust in the eternal God who is all-powerful, infinitely wise and eternally trustworthy.

We can trust in this God who has revealed Himself through His Word and through Jesus as he fulfils his promise through generations past. Faith is a willingness to trust in God, and we can always choose faith for ourselves. Thus, faith is an everyday decision which we can see in the life of Abram, who is given the new name, Abraham.

In today's lesson, we will learn that Abraham and Sarah had a son in their old age, a fulfilment of God's promise to them. Yet, God continues to strengthen and test Abraham's faith, asking him to give Isaac as an offering (a gift) to Him. We see how Abraham responds in faith, trusting God through it all.

Genesis 22:1-3, Hebrews 11:17-19

The events in Genesis 22:1-9 can be summarised in the three verses within Hebrews 11:17-19. When God tested Abraham in his faith and trust in God, Abraham did not withhold Isaac, the very son who is the fulfilment of God's promise after 25 years of waiting. Abraham's obedience was quick and immediate and it shows his full trust in God. This test was not to produce faith in Abraham, but to reveal his faith in God.

Abraham knew the promise God had made with him: to become the father of many nations through Isaac. (Genesis 21:12) Abraham knew that God knew what He was asking for and he had faith to trust that God would make a way for the promise to be fulfilled. Abraham chose to trust God, the promise giver and promise keeper, instead of holding on to Isaac, the promise given. Abraham was holding on to God, the giver, instead of the promise given. Abraham believed that he would be reunited with Isaac, perhaps by God resurrecting Isaac from the dead.

It is also interesting to note that God was very specific in this test to Abraham. He specifically asked for Isaac, the promised son given to Abraham by God Himself, as well as to do the sacrifice in Mt. Moriah. God was the one who is orchestrating this whole episode and God has a plan.

Genesis 22:4-9: Abraham's Journey and Offering of Isaac

It was not an easy journey for Abraham. He had to journey for three days before reaching the place God called him to do the offering, in which it must have been painful for him as he wrestled with himself to obey God. V4 is also the very first mention of the word *worship* of God in the Bible. The Hebrew word *shachah* means to bow down, an act of great respect and honour. Abraham's words to his servants (v5 - "Stay here with the donkey. I and the boy will go over there and worship. Then we'll come back to you.") also showed his faith that both he and Isaac will come back.

The most heart wrenching moment for Abraham must be the moment when Isaac asked him where the lamb of the offering is (v7), to which Abraham replied with faith and wisdom, that the Lord will be the one to provide it. (v8) It is interesting to note that the Bible repeated the phrase "and the two of them walked on together" (v6 and v8) twice. In the original language the phrasing denotes the idea of going together in agreement, where Isaac went ahead with his father, knowingly and willingly what is to likely come.

In fact, we know through verses 9 to 10 that Abraham built an altar, laid down the wood for the burnt offering and tied up Isaac to be placed on top of the wood. It is clear that Isaac is aware of what is to come, that *he* is going to be the sacrifice.

Genesis 22:10-14 God interjects and intervenes with His provision

Abraham was just about to strike his son with the knife before God called out to Abraham to stop. Abraham was a person who acted on his faith and trust in God. He put God first above himself and held on to the promise giver and promise keeper instead of just the promise itself. God Himself, commended Abraham, “Now I know that you would do anything for God. You have not held back from me, your son, your only son.” God then graciously provided a ram to be given as a burnt offering. Despite all that had happened, God called the place “the Lord Provides”. Clearly, Abraham’s focus was on the God behind the promises, God Himself.

Genesis 22:15-19 God reestablished his covenant with Abraham

Once again, God clearly and kindly expresses his promises to Abraham. Now that it is clearer than ever that Abraham was a man of faith in God, God reconfirms His promise to Abraham to make him the father of many nations.

Linking back to the Big Point + Gospel

Abraham did not have things easy, but everyday and every moment, Abraham had grown to choose faith and trust in God. With each time he chose faith, his faith in God grew a little and helped him to know God’s faithful character a little more. Which is why when the time came for God to test Abraham’s faith with his son, Isaac, Abraham was able to trust God - because Abraham knew God’s good and faithful character through his choice to have faith in God everyday through his years believing and following God. Abraham placed his faith and trust on the God behind the promise, and that enabled his concrete faith! Abraham knew that **Faith is Trusting God Everyday!**

Through these weeks, we have learnt from Abraham’s story, that God is a faithful promise keeper and He kept His promise for Abraham to become the father of many nations through Isaac. This family is also eventually where Jesus will be born into, to fulfil how God will save the whole world from sin. Jesus was born as Abraham’s descendant. Jesus came to earth to save all people from sin by dying on the cross despite Him not having any sin. Not only that, Jesus also came back to life on the third day, showing His power over sin and death. When we believe in what Jesus did, we become one of God’s people and we can be with God forever. God is a faithful God who we can trust, thus, we can **grow our faith by choosing to trust God everyday. Faith is Trusting God Everyday!**



CHECK YOUR HEART'S TEMPERATURE!

Reflect and Challenge

Has God ever made a seemingly strange demand of you that seems counterintuitive? Like Abraham, we all need to learn to have faith to trust God every single day, and with each day which we choose faith, the more it is strengthened.

Reflect and Pray: It will come a day when we all might have to sacrifice our very own versions of Isaacs (what we love). Will we then, be able to look beyond the promise and look up to the promise keeper and giver Himself? Pray that your focus will be on the giver and not the gift!