



Day 1

Faith Fact

I will be strong and follow God.

Faith Verse

Ephesians 6:13 (NLT)

Put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will be standing firm.

Question of the Day: How can you stand strong against pressure from the crowd?

Read about It

Read: Luke 23:13–25

Pilate had a hard choice to make. Should he send Jesus to die or should he let Him live? Several times, Pilate told the religious leaders that he thought Jesus was innocent. The priests and the crowd kept fighting back. Rather than being strong and following through on what he knew to be true, Pilate at first refused to make a decision. He sent Jesus to Herod Antipas, who mocked and ridiculed Jesus. When Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate, he listened to the Jewish leaders and the crowd. He finally gave in and sent Jesus to be crucified. Pilate knew the truth, but he was more concerned about what the crowd wanted.

Who is the "crowd" in your life? Many people will try to pressure you into believing the way they do. They may seem nice or even right. But is what they're saying the truth? God's Word can help us stand firm against the crowd. We can't just use our feelings to make our stand. Our heart and mind must know and love the truth in God's Word and then stand on our faith. When the crowd is loud, let God's voice be louder so we can stand strong and follow Him.

Talk about It

Question 1. Did Pilate believe Jesus was guilty or innocent?

Answer 1. Innocent (Luke 23:14)

Question 2. Why do you think Pilate listened to the crowd instead of the truth?

Answer 2. Answers will vary.

Question 3. Who or what is a “crowd” in your life?

Answer 3. Answers will vary.

Question 4. Why do we sometimes listen to other people instead of God?

Answer 4. Answers will vary.

Question 5. How can you stand strong against pressure from the crowd?

Answer 5. Answers will vary.

Pray about It

Dear Jesus, in You, I can stand strong against the crowd. I ask for strength to follow You and know Your truth. Help me to hold tight to Your Word. Thank You that You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. When the crowd is loud, I want Your voice to be louder. I pray for courage to stand strong and follow You. Amen.

Day 2

Faith Fact

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Faith Verse

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Put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will be standing firm.

Question of the Day: Why is it important to stay strong and always follow God?

Read about It

Read: Luke 23:44–48

Jesus' final moments show us His strength to follow God's plan. The sky was dark. He was in terrible pain. He could have chosen to get angry at God because of His suffering. He could have refused to be sacrificed. Instead, Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" In the face of pain and suffering, Jesus was strong and obeyed God until the end. Through this key moment in Jesus' life, His mission on earth was complete, and our salvation was paid for.

When we follow God, there will be times when voices may tell us to give up. But our finishing moment completes the work that we have done for the Lord. Ending well is the most crucial part of our faith journey. The crowd may tell us to quit, or that living for Jesus isn't worth it. We may even be tempted to live for ourself and our desires only. But we must stay strong and obey God as Jesus did.

So don't stop praying for friend who needs Jesus. Don't give up when you are witnessing to a friend. Keep doing the good work even when it is hard. When we follow God until the end, people will truly see Jesus in our life.

Talk about It

Question 1. What did the Roman officer do after Jesus died?

Answer 1. "He worshiped God and said, 'Surely this man was innocent.'" (Luke 23:47)

Question 2. What did Jesus do in His final moments?

Answer 2. He shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands." (Luke 23:46)

Question 3. Have you ever wanted to quit? Explain.

Answer 3. Answers will vary.

Question 4. What can we do to stay strong in the faith?

Answer 4. Answers will vary.

Question 5. Why is it important to stay strong and always follow God?

Answer 5. Answers will vary.

Pray about It

Dear Jesus, You are worthy of all of my praise. Jesus, help me to stay strong and follow You. Thank You that I am never alone and can always depend on Your strength to lead me everywhere I go. Let my life be a testimony to Your goodness and grace. I will follow You all my life. Amen.

Day 3

Faith Fact

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Faith Verse

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Put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will be standing firm.

Question of the Day: What daily choices can you make to stand strong for God?

Read about It

Read: 1 Kings 3:3–14; 11:9–13

Solomon was King David's son and a great king of Israel. At the beginning of his reign, he didn't ask God for wealth or possessions. Instead, he asked for wisdom to rule God's people. Because of this, God blessed him abundantly. He had wealth and riches. He built the temple of the Lord and a beautiful, majestic palace. People came from far and wide to hear his wisdom. He sacrificed to the Lord and dedicated the temple to God. Solomon had absolutely everything, and it all came from God. While Solomon started strong, he did not finish well. He sacrificed to the gods of his wives. God had warned him against this, but Solomon disobeyed. The entire kingdom felt the effects of this leader's disobedience.

Why did Solomon let his heart turn away from God? Solomon turned away from God because of the daily choices that he made. One little bad choice probably didn't seem like a big deal, especially when he had done so many great things. But one little choice can lead to another and another. And eventually, they can lead away from God. While bad decisions can lead us away, good decisions made each day help us to stand firm. Reading our Bible, praying, worshipping, giving, and serving are all excellent choices. Also, standing on God's promises, telling Jesus how much we love Him, and making space for Him to work in our life keeps us strong in faith. The daily choices we make to follow Jesus will keep us strong all of our life.

Talk about It

Question 1. What did Solomon ask for?

Answer 1. Wisdom (1 Kings 3:10)

Question 2. How did Solomon describe himself that showed his need for God's help?

Answer 2. He said that he was "like a little child who doesn't know his way around."
(1 Kings 3:7)

Question 3. Why was most of the kingdom taken away from Solomon’s family?

Answer 3. He did not keep God’s covenant or obey God’s decrees. (1 Kings 11:11)

Question 4. Is it okay to do some things God says are wrong as long as we’ve done lots of good things? Why?

Answer 4. No, any time we disobey God it is wrong.

Question 5. What daily choices can you make to stand strong for God?

Answer 5. Answers will vary.

Pray about It

Dear Jesus, I want to obey You and do mighty things for You. Please help me to love You more than doing great things for You. I want to obey and worship You always. In this way, I can forever stand strong for You. I love You, Jesus. Amen.

Day 4

Faith Fact

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Question of the Day: How can our family be strong and serve the Lord?

Read about It

Read: Joshua 24:14–18

The Jewish people had made it to the Promised Land. God had provided for them and helped them to win battles time and again. Now it was time to live in the land that God had promised. So, Joshua called together the people to remember their promise to the Lord. God had brought them from slavery, through the wilderness, and into the Promised Land. Would they continue to serve Him? Joshua boldly declared, “As for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.” The people shouted back that they would too. This moment was a commitment for each family and

their future children They chose to follow God alone. Their words were a promise that they would be strong and follow God.

What about you and your family? You may go to church, pray, and read your Bible together. You may even talk about what God is doing for you or how to serve Him best. But, have you declared your trust in God as a family? Our words have power. When we decide to declare that we will serve the Lord as a family, this shows where we stand. We won't turn this way or that, but we will serve God no matter what. It is our reminder of what we will do when serving God—going to church, praying as a family, or reading the Bible—gets difficult. Let's declare our decision today, that we will serve the Lord.

Talk about It

Question 1. Who did Joshua declare would serve the Lord?

Answer 1. He and his family (Joshua 24:15)

Question 2. Why did the people say they would never abandon or leave God?

Answer 2. He rescued them from slavery, performed miracles, preserved them, and drove out other nations from the land. (Joshua 24:16–18)

Question 3. What are some of the ways that you or you and your family serve the Lord?

Answer 3. Answers will vary.

Question 4. When we say that “we will serve the Lord,” what does that mean?

Answer 4. Answers will vary.

Question 5. How can our family be strong and serve the Lord?

Answer 5. Answers will vary.

Pray about It

Dear Jesus, You have done great things for our family. You have blessed us, kept us, healed us, and protected us. Thank You for all of the ways that You have shown us Your goodness and faithfulness. It is our honor to serve You. As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord. Amen.