Personal Faith

It is the responsibility of each generation to offer faith to the next. The following generation has the choice to explore it, evaluate it and accept or deny it.

The generation of Moses saw amazing things. They saw the sea split in two. They saw the plagues and they experienced following a divine pillar of smoke and fire.

Read Joshua 2:6-10

1. What was Joshua's generation's faith like?

2. What did Joshua's generation fail to do?

3. When Joshua's generation died, how did faith change?

Read Joshua 2:11-15

4. Why do you think the fake gods were more attractive than the real God?

5. Did the Israelite's blessing change as their faith diminished?

Not every child grows up in a family of faith. It is interesting to look at leaders that developed their own faith independent of their families.

King Ahab and Queen Jezebel are some of the most evil people in the Bible. They had a daughter named Athaliah.

Athalia's son was King Ahaziah.

Read II Kings 8:25-27

6. Wash King Ahaziah a good king?

7. What was the faith of King Ahaziah like?

At this time the royal family of Judah worshipped fake gods and encouraged others to worship fake gods.

Read II Kings 9:27-28

8. How did King Ahaziah die?

Read II Kings 11:1-3

9. What did Athaliah do when she found out her son was dead? (She killed her grandchildren)

10. Why do you think she killed her grandchildren? (She wanted to be queen and have all the power)

11. How was Joash saved? (Jehosheba took Joash and hid him)

Read II Kings 11:4-8

12. Who protected Joash and planned for his success? (The military and the priests)

13. Why did the young king need to be protected?

II Kings 11:9-12

14. Where did the weapons they used come from? (They were King David's and they were in the temple)

15. How did they announce that Joash was king? (They put the crown on him and yelled, "Long Live The King".

II kings 11:13-16

16. What did Athaliah cry out? (Treason)

17. Who had she been betrayed by? (The priests and the military)

18. Was it treason?

19. Why did they not kill Athaliah immediately? (They didn't want to kill her in the temple)

I Kings 11:17-21

20. What did they do to the temples to fake gods? (They tore them down)

21. What happened to the Priest of Baal? (He was killed)

22. How old was Joash when he became king? (Seven years old)

II Kings 12:1-3 (Joash and Jehoash are the same person)

Joash led the people of Israel to follow God and turn from idols.

A priest name Jehoiada was very important to Joash and helped raise him.

23. How can good people help you in your walk of faith?

24. How was Joash's faith different from his parents and grandparents?

Joash lived most of his life with God.

Read II Chronicles 24: 15-19

25. How did the death of Joash's mentor Jehoiada effect the faith of Joash and the faith of the nation of Judah? (The let the temple fall into disrepair and once again people started worshipping fake gods)

26. How did disobedience effect the nation of Judah?

II Chronicles 24:20-22

27. What did Zechariah tell the people? (They were sinning and not following God)

28. What did King Joash order? (They murdered Zechariah by stoning him to death)

29. Why should have Joash been respectful of Zechariah?

II Chronicles 24:23-24

30. Why did God allow the Arameans to defeat Judah? (Judah had forsaken God)

31. Would it have been easier if they had turned to God when Zechariah asked them too?

II Chronicles 24:25-27

32. How did Joash die?

33. Discuss the faith and religious life of Joash and how it changed throughout his life.

34. How did bad influences effect Joash?

Maintaining your faith can be difficult when you move away from home for your job or education. About half of young people make the decision to leave active faith and fall away from God when they move away from home. The Bible talks about people who worked hard to maintain their faith past their youth.

In 597 B.C. King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylong conquered Judah.

Daniel 1:3-4

35. What did King Nebuchadnezzar want done with the best and brightest young men? (Brought to Babylon)

36. What would be some of the struggles that these young men would face moving away from home?

37. Did they speak the language of the Chaldeans? (No)

38. What challenges would they have because they didn't speak the same language?

Read Daniel 1:8-13

39. What did Daniel make up his mind to do? (Not to defile himself)

40. 30% of first year college students drop out of college. What do you believe causes this?

41. What are some things that defile in the world and harm spirituality?

Read Daniel 3:1-6

42. Why could believers in God not worship the statue?

43. What was the punishment for refusal to worship the statue?

Daniel 3:8-12

44. What charges were brought forward against the jews?

45. Why do you think people turned in these young men for refusing to worship the statue?

Daniel 3:13-15

46. Were they given a final change to worship the statue?

47. Would it be hard to make a decision that could result in pain?

Daniel 3:16-18

48. How did King Nebuchadnezzar respond to their refusal? (He was filled with rage)

49. What was their response?

50. Did they make allowances that they may not be delivered? ("Even if He does not, let it be known to you, O King, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image")

Daniel 3:19-23

51. Would you be tempted to worship the statue as you were walking towards the furnace?

52. What happened to the men who threw them into the furnace? (They died)

Daniel 3:24-27

53. Were they alone in the fire?

54. What effects did they have from the fire?

Daniel 3:28

55. Did their faith affect others?

Watch the video about Cassie Bernall.

Click on the link to watch the video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eg6cs_qoDzI

Personal Faith means a willingness to change your beliefs according to who God really is and not just who you think He is.

Read Acts 7:54-60

55. How did they react to Stephen's sermon?

56. How can you tell that the audience stopped listening? (They covered their ears)

57. What did they do to Stephen? (They stoned him until he was dead)

58. Who watched their robes while they were murdering Stephen? (Saul)

Discuss that this was before Saul's conversion to Christianity.

Read Acts 8:1-3

59. What was Saul doing to make life difficult for believers?

60. How would being imprisoned effect yourself or your family?

Read Acts 9:1-2

61. What did Saul have the authority to do? (To arrest believers in Jesus)

Read Acts 9:3-9

62. What did the voice ask Saul? (Why are you persecuting me?)

63. How was Paul physically affected by the encounter? (He could not see)

Acts 9:10-16

64. Was Ananias excited about meeting Saul? (He was concerned that Saul was arresting believers)

65. What did the Lord tell Ananias about Saul? (He is a chosen instrument of mine)

Acts 22:12-16

66. What did Ananias do to help Saul? (He healed his sight)

67. Did Ananias want Saul to put off baptism? (No)

68. What was the purpose of Saul's baptism? (Wash away your sins)

Acts 9:26-30

69. Why were believers afraid of Saul?

70. How do you think the Jewish leaders reacted to Saul's conversion?

Acts 21:20-1

71. How was Saul better at spreading the Gospel because of his former life as a prosecutor of the church?

Read Acts 21:27-28

72. Were the religious leaders upset about Paul's conversion?

Read Acts 23:12-15

73. Was Paul/Saul's faith the same as it was before he met Jesus and Ananias?

74. Would it be hard to have such a drastic change of faith?

75. Where does Faith come from?

Read Romans 10:17

76. In the text where does faith come from?

Read II Timothy 1:5

77. Who impacted your faith the most? Who first spoke the word of God to you?

78. Where did Timothy's faith originate?

Acts 26:27-32

79. Did King Agrippa believe in God? (Yes it says he believed in the prophets)

80. What do you think kept King Agrippa from believing in Jesus?

81. Who did Paul want to become Christians? (Everyone)

Revelation 3:14-16

82. Is kind of believing enough?

83. What was the problem in Laodocea?

Revelation 2:9-11

84. How long must we be faithful to receive a crown? (Until Death)

Closing

Faith needs to be yours. You cannot borrow the faith of your parents.

Read Matthew 7:13-14

85. Why is it important to find out what is real and not just what is popular?

86. What is the problem with basing your faith on what's popular with the majority? (The majority are lost)

Read Matthew 7:15-20

87. What are false prophets?

88. What does it mean by wolves in sheep's clothing?

89. Why is it important to evaluate any changes you make to your faith?

90. How do you judge someone by their fruits?

Read Matthew 7:21-23

91. Will everyone who claims to be faithful be saved?

92. In the text, what condemns those who claim faithfulness?

93. What does lawlessness mean?

Read Luke 9:22-24

94. Do you have a cross?

95. What do you think Jesus means here by saying “Cross”?

96. Is saving faith about what we want?

The word cross would have been very provocative. It would have been a word you rarely used. Connected to the word cross would have been images, smells and sounds of people being crucified.

97. Is saving faith convenient?

Each one of you may have a cross. You may have biological struggles with depression or addiction. No matter what your cross is, pick it up and follow Jesus. Be one of those who travel through the narrow gate.

Read Matthew 25:14-18

98. What did the last servant do with the money entrusted to him?

Read Matthew 25:19-23

99. What did the good servants do with the money entrusted to them?

100. At judgment, how will it feel to hear, “Well done thy good and faithful servant”?

Read Matthew 25:24-25

101. Was the servant respectful to the master?

Read Matthew 25:26-30

102. What did the last servant do wrong? (He did not multiply the blessings he was entrusted with.)

Each one of you have been entrusted with a great many gifts. How you use those gifts in the exercise of your faith will affect your salvationion.