

'...and they shall become one in thine hand.' Ezekiel 37.17

LESSON TITLE
Faith In Christ

UNIT 1 - Heavenly Authority

GRADES 7-9 & 10-12

HOLY BIBLE
Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

THE BOOK OF MORMON
Ether 3:14,"Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son. In me shall all mankind have light, and that eternally, even they who shall believe on my name; and they shall become my sons and my daughters.

OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to:

- Examine evidence of Jesus being the son of God, through the life of John the baptist. Matthew 3:1-17, Mark 1:1-11. Luke 1:5-80. John 1:6-37.
- Identify and relate the gospel's personal role in your life.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS
- In your opinion, what is the most compelling evidence, for John the baptist, that Jesus is God's Son?
- What compelling proof do you have that Jesus is God's Son? How has this proof impacted your relationship with God?
- What does the plan of salvation mean to you? What benefits come from enduring faith in Christ?

MATERIALS
Holy Bible and Book of Mormon
White Board and markers
Task 1: Scriptural Texts (pages 5 & 6) 1- per student. Highlighter markers. Pencils
Slide show: Jesus - Son of God

TEACHER NOTES

45-minute lesson

To prepare for this lesson, study the scriptural references listed in **OBJECTIVES and TEACHER'S SUPPLEMENT.**

Q = Teacher asks question

Note: The Church of Jesus Christ uses the Authorized King James Version of The Holy Bible and The Book of Mormon published by The Church

Definitions:

Substance *n* - the real or essential part or element of anything; essence, reality, or basic matter. 2. a. the physical matter of which a thing consists; material. essential nature.

Evidence *n* - the available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true or valid. an outward sign; something that furnishes proof; one who bears witness;

Song: I Go To the Rock 3:23 mins.
Task 2: White drawing paper 1 - per student. Markers/Colored pencils

PROCEDURE

Motivation/Introduction (3-5 minutes)

1. Read aloud in class Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."
2. Define terms: Evidence and Substance (definitions, page 1).
3. Engage students in a discussion on ways evidence is used as proof, e.g lab results to prove a condition/disease; testimonies of eye witnesses to prove guilt or innocence, etc. and relate spiritually:

   Q: Have you ever had someone you know ask, "How do you know that God is real?" "Can you prove that God is real?" "Why do you believe in Jesus?" "What do you believe about Jesus?"

Goal: Examine evidence of Jesus being the Son of God, through the life of John the Baptist. Identify and relate the gospel's personal role in your life.

Lesson Development (35-40 minutes)
(See Teacher's Supplement for guidance, steps 1-4)

1. Task 1: Engage students in a discussion on evidence (acts or events) in John the Baptist's life that develop his belief in Christ, e.g. exposure to his parent's faith and revelations, personal revelations, acting in faith, testimonies of others.
   a. Hand each student a copy of the scriptural texts sheets, pencils, and highlight markers.
   b. Ask for volunteers to read aloud the scriptures pertaining to John the Baptist's life.
   c. Slides 1-6: Students identify and highlight texts that depict acts or events which develop John's faith in Christ. Think-Pair-Share. Slideshow may be used as visuals of acts/events.
   d. Make a list of students' responses on the board.
   e. Relate evidence to stepping stones of faith.
2. Students recall and share evidence (acts or events in their lives) which develop their faith in Christ, and write them on the back of the scriptural text pages.
3. Slide 7: Engage students in a discussion on plausible reasons John the Baptist questions the authenticity of Jesus Christ (Luke 7:19), and relate personally.
4. Engage students in a discussion on the significance of Jesus' response to John (Luke 7:22,23), and relate personally.
5. Task 2: Students illustrate personal stepping stones of faith.
   a. Hand students a sheet of art paper and markers/ colored pencils.
   b. Students use their creativity to illustrate acts or events that develop their faith in Christ.
   c. Display students' work on the wall making a quilt,for a period of time. Then return art to students and encourage them to display it in a prominent place in their home, to remind them to stay solid in Christ.
6. Discuss Essential Questions.
7. Students sing, "I Go to the Rock." (Link page 1)
8. Memory Verse: (Select one and encourage students to memorize)

   - "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." **Romans 1:16**

   - "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." **Hebrews 11:6**

Key words: heavenly authority, Redeemer, faith, Christ

Teacher's Supplement

Lesson Development

1. The Faith of John the Baptist

Task 1: Identify faith-building evidence in John the Baptist's life:

A. Exposure to the faith and testimonies of his parents:

- **Slide 2:** John's father's angel experience:
  - Foretells of John's birth
  - Names him John
  - Describes John's life
    - Consecrated to God (Nazarite),
    - Forerunner of the Messiah)
    - Will be filled with the Holy Ghost
    - Will turn many people to the Lord
  - Is struck dumb until the baby is born, as a sign, because of unbelief.

- **Slide 3**: John's mother's experience with the Holy Ghost
  - Elisabeth feels her baby leap in her womb when Mary approaches being pregnant with God's Son.
  - Prophesied of Mary being the mother Christ

  - Zacharias and Elisabeth name their baby John, and Zacharias' speech returns. They raise him as a Nazarite (Acts of faith - obedience to God's message).

B. **Slides 4-6:** John's personal experiences with the Holy Ghost:

- Receives direction from God to begin his ministry
- Preaches repentance, the Gospel of the kingdom and baptism for the remission of sins.
- The Holy Ghost reveals Jesus to John. (Meets the Messiah face to face in the Jordan river)
- John baptizes Jesus
- Continues preaching. Many are baptized.
  - Some question if he is the Christ. John assures them he is not, and that Jesus is.
  - Rejoices in the coming of His Lord.

Q: John appears confident in who Jesus is. In your opinion, what built his confidence?

2. **Relate Personally**

Discussion Point: Divine proofs (answered prayers, miracles, testimonies, manifestations of the Holy Spirit, etc.) are stepping stones of faith, mounting a foundation of evidence to anchor them in Christ when trials come (things that may tempt them to question their belief in Christ).

Q: How confident are you in believing that Jesus is God's Son?
Q: What makes you confident in Jesus Christ? What have you heard or seen that helps your faith in Jesus to be firm?

3. **Slide 7: John Questions Jesus' Authenticity**

Background: John boldly reprimands Herod, king of Israel, for his adulterous relationship and other sins he's committed. Herod has John imprisoned. While in prison, John sends a message to Jesus.

- **Read from the Bible, Luke 7: 19: "**And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?"

Q: In your opinion, what might cause John to question if Jesus is the Christ?
Q: Can you think of a situation in your life that has caused you to doubt your belief in Christ or has caused you to wonder if you are on the right path spiritually?

4. **Slide 7 cont'd: Jesus' Response to John**

- **Read from the Bible, Luke 7:22,23: "**Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me."

Q: In your opinion, what is critical about the way Jesus responds to John? Why do you think Jesus does not give a "Yes" or "No" answer? (Accept any plausible answer. John is asked to consider the evidence, to decide based on what he has seen and heard about Jesus.)
Q: What do miracles reveal about Jesus' identity? (Miracles are evidence that He is God. They should give John confidence in his belief in Christ.)
Q: Why might Jesus have tagged at the end, "Blessed is he…who shall not be offended in me"? How might this pertain to John? (John is imprisoned and will lose his life for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus affirms John's ministry is not in vain, and encourages him to be confident and endure in the faith, even to death.)
Q: What does John gain by enduring faith in Christ? (*Eternal* life)

Q: How might your evidence of faith in Christ help you to stand firm when mocked/rejected by others? Help you to stand firm when you doubt your belief in God?
Q: Can you think of an example of what being offended in Christ looks like today? (Accept any plausible answers, e.g. Being angry at God. Abandoning the faith, e.g. giving up on a relationship with God, Disobedience of God's commandments, Adopting worldly beliefs/practices, etc.)

ZACHARIAS

“But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.” **Luke 1:13-20**

ELISABETH

“And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. **Luke 1:41-44**

“Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son. And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her. And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father. And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John. And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name. And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all. And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God.” **Luke 1: 57-64**

JOHN

"...the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins: **Luke 3:2,3**

"And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:" **Luke 3:15,16**

"And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." **Mark 1:9-11**

And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. **John 1: 32-34**

"Again the next day after John stood, and two of his disciples; And looking upon Jesus as he walked, he saith, Behold the Lamb of God! And the two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. **John 1:35-37**

"Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease. He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all." **John 3:28- 31**

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