

Faith is Obeying What God Says

Week 1:

The Big Point: Faith is Obeying What God Says!

God's Word: God Calls Abram to a new Land (Genesis 12:1-9, 13:1-18)

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 obey what God says 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 and Lot (Genesis 12-13)

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.

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

♥ 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. 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 12:1-9, 13:1-18 and Hebrews 11: 1, 8-10

Hebrews 11:1 - The Definition of Faith

The premise of this series is centered 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.

Genesis 12:1-9, Hebrews 11:8-10

"Go from your country, your people and your father's family. Go to the land I will show you" (V1) God called Abram to leave behind all that he knows and all that he is familiar with to a completely unknown place. God's invitation to Abram challenges him to abandon the normal sources of personal identity and security: his family and country. Since God specifically told Abram to *"go from your people"*, it is clear that Abram's only choice is to trust God fully as all human support is removed. Abram had only the choice to look to God and choose to trust him - Faith!

God's Promise (V2-3, 7)

In the following verse, we see that God gave his promise in absolute terms, all of the promises and plans He has for Abram starts with "I will." We have to remember that the

giver of the promise is the faithful, promise-keeper God who will never go back on His Words. Yet, of course, the promised outcomes are conditional on Abram's obedience. It is up to Abram to choose faith to obey God's call and promise, which fortunately, Abram did. Abram choosing the faith of obeying God is commendable as God's promises were not what seem possible when one glances at Abram's life: 75 years old with no children and about to leave all of his family and country to an unknown place.

It is also important to note that God's promise for Abram to become a great nation is not simply for him, but to be *"a blessing to others"*, where he can show God's goodness to all of the nations.

V7 - Following Abram's obedience, and upon entering the land, God affirmed His faithfulness and reminded Abram of His promise and plans. God showed Abram the land and Abram *saw* the very land that belongs to him and his descendants.

Genesis 13:1-18

The events in this chapter are not the focus of today's lesson. However, we can simply note that Abram's generous offer to Lot to choose the land (v8-9) shows yet his trust in God, no matter which land he would eventually be on. Following that, once again, we see the faithfulness of God, who once again, affirms His promises and calling of Abram in v14-17.

God mentions how *"I will give it forever to you and your family who comes after you. I will make them like the dust of the earth"* thus emphasising not just the extent of the land that Abram's descendants will inherit but also how numerous they will be. Recall once again, that Abram is at that point, still childless. Abram can only choose to believe and trust God through eyes of faith.

Link to Big Point + Gospel

This week, we learnt from Abraham's story that we can choose to believe God, His words, His instructions and obey. Abraham was called by God to go to an unknown place where he will have no idea who he will meet and no idea what he is going to do. However, Abraham simply believed God and even obeyed what was instructed to him. Abraham had faith and faith is obeying what God says. We can choose faith, just like Abraham, not because of ourselves but because our God is a faithful and all-powerful God who will always and is able to keep His promises. As we continue to learn from Abram's story, we will also realise that Abram was able to choose faith and obey Him because Abram has grown to know God and God's faithful, promise-keeping character. Faith is obeying what God says!

Abraham choosing to believe and obey God allowed him to become the father and the first of God's chosen people who God will use for all people to get to know Him. Eventually, Jesus, God's own son, was born as Abraham's descendant. Jesus came from God 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 (also faith!), we become one of God's people and we can be with God forever!



CHECK YOUR HEART'S TEMPERATURE!

Reflect and Challenge

Have you ever been given an impossible task by God? Note that it was no mistake on God's part. The "impossible-ness" of the task itself is tell-tale that it is from God Himself. He graciously gives what is impossible in human terms so as to keep our eyes on Him and our faith active. We would have no other choice but to look to Him for strength (which he so graciously gives) and actively choose faith to obey Him everyday.

Reflect: To the impossible tasks that you might have been entrusted before. God will always qualify and strengthen who he calls. Think back to how God has shown Himself and provided for you as you answer to His call and promises.

Pray: That like Abraham, you will choose to see the faithful and all-powerful God behind the promise and thus, be able to choose faith everyday! Faith to trust him and obey him.