



THIS PROGRAM - OVERVIEW

There are many stories in the bible of men and women putting their faith into action and achieving great things for God. In this program, we are learning about some of these 'heroes of the faith' listed in Hebrews 11. Our heart is that kids will see the many ways they can activate their faith in their lives, learning from these great men and women who have gone before us. Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. We don't trust our feelings, or what the circumstance looks like - instead we have faith in God!

Our Repeated phrase is: In this program we are looking at heroes in the bible who stepped out in faith, so we can be encouraged to do the same.

Memory Verse: "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see"- Hebrews 11:1

WEEK 3: JACOB - FAITH KNOWS WHEN GOD SHOWS

Jacob had a vision from God which caused him to recognise God's presence in his life. God wants to reveal Himself to us in a tangible way, through faith. It's a revelation of God in our hearts, beyond our reason. This is what we see through the story of Jacob. He sees what is unseen and recognises God's presence in a heartfelt encounter with Him. **Faith knows when God shows!**

RESOURCES

- A bible and buzzer for the game
- Wk 3 Connect worksheet, bible and colouring pencils for connect group

PREACH OUTLINE

Story: Share the story of Jacobs encounters with God found in Genesis 28:10-22 and Genesis 32:22-32. Jacobs encounters show a journey of learning the presence of God - from realising after the fact that God was in this place and worshipping, to wrestling for the blessing!

Points to hit:

1. **Faith Knows when God shows** - Jacob became sensitive to the fact that God was present to him. God is present everywhere yet through faith we can experience a knowing that He is present with us in a personal heartfelt way - not just something we know in our head. Jacob declared 'God is here but I didn't know it!' (Genesis 28:16). We all can learn to become aware of God's presence.
2. **Faith worships a present God** - knowing that God was present brought a greater sense of awe for God to Jacob, so that he couldn't help but praise God. When we experience God's presence in our lives, we can't help but worship Him (Gen 28:16, 1 John 4:19)
3. **Transformation happens by knowing God is present** - Jacob wrestles with God and God changes his name, his identity. In this wrestle Jacob is fighting for a life that is blessed by God and God said he overcame - he won the battle! Just like Jacob wouldn't leave until he was blessed, the more time you spend with God, the more you will find your life blessed. Jacob responds by stopping his family from worshipping false gods, but rather the one true God. As you spend time with God, He will transform your life to be greater than it could be on your own, away from God. He has purpose for your life to do great things (Genesis 32:22-32, Genesis 35:2).

ILLUSTRATION IDEA

Have you ever had someone creep up on you to give you a fright? Sometimes they are there and you aren't aware of them, but sometimes you can sense that somebody has entered the room even if you can't hear or see them. How do you know they are there? Because you can sense them. Faith makes us aware of God spiritually. God is a person who has a presence about Him. Sometimes it can take time for us to become aware of God, sometimes it takes faith because you can't feel Him just yet. That's okay, the more time you spend with God, the more you will learn how to feel His presence. Lead kids in a quiet moment to do that.

CONNECT GROUP QUESTIONS

Connect groups are a time to build friendships and engage kids in discussion about the preach. Remember to keep it fun and to pray!

1. What was the vision that Jacob had in his dream?
2. Read Genesis 18:26 together, have you ever been aware of God's presence? What did it feel like?
3. Why do you think it takes faith to know that God is with you?
4. The Holy Spirit is our helper and He helps us to feel the presence of God. What can you tell me about the Holy Spirit? Who is He? How does He help us experience God?
5. Why do you think Jacob responded to God's presence by worshipping God and giving His life to Him? What is so powerful about God's presence for you to do that?

GAME: BIBLE CHARACTER TRIVIA

Quick thinking is needed for this bible trivia challenge!

1. Divide the kids into two teams and invite one player from each team up to represent their teams. Give each player a buzzer or noise maker and have trivia questions ready for the game host.
2. The aim of the game is to win the most points as a team in this trivia challenge! After each question, bring up new players from each team to answer the next question.
3. The first person to buzz in and answer correctly wins a point for their team, the other player may answer if they get it wrong.
4. Mix it up by making it harder to hit the buzzer first! I.e. have players spin around and touch the ground before hitting the buzzer, or do five star jumps, run a lap of the room, you name it!



Game

Bible Trivia Questions

1. Who in the Bible is called the Father of faith? (Abraham)
2. Who was thrown into the lion's den? (Daniel)
3. Which bible character said the Lord is my Shepherd? David
4. Name three of Jesus Disciples?
(Peter, James, John, Andrew, Bartholomew or Nathanael, James the younger, Judas, Jude or Thaddeus, Matthew or Levi, Philip, Simon the Zealot, Thomas)
5. Which Bible character is known for his super strength?
(Samson)
6. Name two people who are considered prophets in the Bible?
(Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Jeremiah, David, John the baptist, Jonah etc.)
7. What did God tell Noah the Rainbow means to us? (never flood the earth again)
8. How old was Abraham when he had a son? (100)
9. Who Did God use to part the red sea?(Moses)
10. Who was the next leader after Moses?(Joshua)
11. How many brothers did Joseph have? (11)
12. Name one of Adam and eves sons? Cain, Able, Seth
13. Whats the name of King Davids son who ruled Israel after him? Solomon
14. Can you name one of the three Israelites who were thrown into the fiery furnace?shadrach, meshach and abednego
15. Who was called the friend of God. Abraham, Gideon or Joshua? Abraham