

Things I Don't Understand

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: Faith

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1

Memory Verse: Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. - Hebrews 11:1

The Children's Sermon

Today, I want to talk to you about something very special: Faith in God's Control. It's like knowing that even when we don't understand how things work, we can trust that God is taking care of everything. Let's think about some things we use every day but might not fully understand.

CALCULATORS: When we use a calculator, we press buttons to solve math problems. It's amazing how it gives us the right answer every time, even though we might not understand how it works. Just like a calculator, we might not understand how God has all the answers to the problems in our life, but we can have faith in God's control, knowing He always does.

FLASHLIGHTS: Have you ever used a flashlight in the dark? It's pretty simple, right? You click it on, and suddenly, the light shines, making everything visible. Even if we don't get how the light comes on, we see that it works. In the same way, during our darkest times, God is like that flashlight. We might not understand how, but with faith in God's control, He lights up our path and guides us through.

REMOTE CONTROLS: It's fun to sit on the couch and use a remote control to change the TV channels, right? We don't have to get up; we just press buttons, and the TV does what we want. It's kind of a mystery how it works from across the room. This is like how God can be in heaven but still control everything on earth. We don't have to understand it completely, but we can have faith in God's control over our lives.

Now, let's add some more examples to help us understand faith in God's control even better.

SEEDS: Think about when you plant a seed in the ground. We water it and wait. After some time, a tiny plant starts to grow. We can't see what's happening under the soil, but we know if we take care of it, something beautiful will grow. That's faith in God's control. We might not see what God is doing in our lives right away, but if we trust Him and follow His ways, beautiful things will happen.

CLOUDS AND RAIN: Have you ever looked up at the sky and seen the clouds? Sometimes, they're fluffy and white, and other times, they're dark. Then, out of nowhere, it starts to rain. We might not understand how the clouds know when to release the rain, but they do, and it helps plants grow and gives us water to drink. This shows us that God controls nature in ways we can't always understand, but we can have faith in God's control to provide what we need.

BIRDS FLYING: Have you watched birds fly? They can soar high in the sky or swoop down low, all without falling. We might not understand how they do it so effortlessly, but it's part of how they were created. Just like birds trust their wings, we can have faith in God's control, knowing He created us and gives us everything we need to navigate our lives.

Now, let's remember something very important. Having faith in God's control doesn't mean we'll always understand everything or that life will always be easy. But it does mean that we believe God is with us, helping us, loving us, and guiding us every step of the way.

So, whenever you use a calculator, turn on a flashlight, or use a remote control, remember how these things work without us fully understanding them. Let them remind you of the even greater truth: that we can have faith in God's control over everything in our lives.

Let's pray together: "Dear God, thank you for always being in control, even when we don't understand how things work. Help us to trust You more and have faith in Your control every day. Amen."

Remember, kids, faith in God's control is like a big, warm hug that keeps us safe and loved, even when things around us don't make sense. And just like we learn to use calculators, flashlights, and remote controls, we can learn to trust God more and more each day.

Bible Memory Verse

Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. - Hebrews 11:1

You Will Need:

- Colored construction paper
- Scissors

- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the construction paper into simple shapes (like stars, hearts, or clouds) beforehand.
- Set up a table with all the materials spread out for easy access.

Do This:

1. Ask the children to pick a shape of construction paper. Explain that this shape will be their 'Faith Shield'.
2. On one side of their shield, have them write the memory verse (Hebrews 11:1) with markers or crayons. If they're too young to write, you can write it for them or have it pre-written on the shields.
3. On the other side, encourage them to draw or write things they hope for or believe in even though they can't see them. Examples could be love, God, angels, or even something personal like a family member's health improving.
4. Once they're done, they can decorate their Faith Shield with stickers or more drawings. Share in a circle, letting each child explain their hope or belief depicted on their shield.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large, empty box (big enough for a child to fit inside)
- Various small objects (like a toy, a book, a ball, etc.)
- A blindfold

- Printed or written copies of Hebrews 11:1

Get Ready:

- Place the small objects inside the large box before the class.
- Write or print out Hebrews 11:1 on paper for each child.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Hebrews 11:1 together: "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."
2. Explain that faith is believing in something even if we can't see it right now. Just like we believe there's something inside the box without seeing it.
3. Blindfold one child at a time and let them reach into the box to pick an object. Without looking, they must guess what the object is based on touch.
4. After they guess, they can remove the blindfold and see if their faith (belief) matched what was actually in the box.
5. Discuss how sometimes we might not see God, but we can have faith in Him and His promises, just like we believed there was something in the box and tried to figure out what it was without seeing it.

Snack Activity: Faithful Fruit Boats

You'll Need:

- A variety of fruits (such as apples, bananas, and grapes)
- Toothpicks
- Small paper flags (or paper to make your own)

Get Ready: Before the activity, write Hebrews 11:1 on the paper flags. If you're making your own flags, cut small rectangles from paper, write the verse on each, and attach them to toothpicks with tape.

Do this:

1. Explain Hebrews 11:1 to the children: 'Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.' Discuss how faith in God is like knowing there's wind even when we can't see it—we see the effects.
2. Have the children select fruits to make their boats. They can use half an apple as the base, banana slices as people, and grapes or other small fruits to decorate.
3. Help the children insert the toothpick flags into their fruit boats. As they work, talk about how their boats need faith to 'sail'—believing in what we can't see, like the wind that moves a real boat. Encourage them to remember their faith in God is strong, even when God isn't visible, just like the wind.

Game Activity: Faith Walk

You'll Need:

- A large open space (either indoors or outdoors)
- Chalk (if outdoors) or tape (if indoors) to mark paths
- Index cards
- Pen or marker

Get Ready: Before the game, write down simple faith-based actions on the index cards, such as 'Say a prayer', 'Name a Bible story about faith', or 'Mention one thing you're thankful for'. Create a start line and a finish line in your space. Then, create a winding path from the start to the finish line with several stations marked along the way using chalk or tape. Place an index card with a faith-based action at each station.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that Hebrews 11:1 teaches us that faith is believing in what we cannot see. Today, they're going to go on a Faith Walk to learn more about faith.
2. Line the children up at the start line. One at a time, have them walk the path from the start to the finish line. At each station, they must stop and perform the action written on the index card.
3. Once a child completes the action, they can move on to the next station. The goal is to complete the Faith Walk by performing all the faith-based actions along the way. Encourage the children to think about each action and how it relates to having faith in God.

This game not only gets the kids moving but also helps them understand the concept of faith in a fun and interactive way.

Craft Activity: Faith Glasses

You'll Need:

- Construction paper (various colors)
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Clear plastic (like from a recycled packaging)
- Decorative items (stickers, glitter, etc.)

Get Ready: Cut out two glasses shapes from construction paper. These will be the frames. Cut out two clear plastic circles to fit as the 'lenses' in the glasses frames.

Do this:

1. On one lens, have the children write 'Faith' using a marker. On the other lens, they can draw something they hope for but can't yet see (like a friend, a pet, or a dream).
2. Glue the clear plastic lenses into the frames. Make sure the side with the writing and drawing faces outward.
3. Decorate the frames with markers, stickers, and glitter. As they decorate, discuss Hebrews 11:1 and how faith is believing in what we can't see, just like their drawings hidden behind the lenses.
4. Once the glasses are dry, encourage the children to 'see' through their faith glasses, reminding them that faith in God helps us believe in His promises, even when we can't see them yet.

Prayer Activity: Faithful Footsteps Prayer Path

You'll Need:

- Large sheets of paper or poster board
- Markers or crayons
- Tape

Get Ready: Before class, write Hebrews 11:1 on a large sheet of paper or poster board. Then, create a path on the floor with more sheets of paper, taping them down to make a walkway. Each sheet of paper should have a simple word or picture related to faith (such as 'trust,' 'believe,' a picture of a cross, a heart, etc.).

Do this:

1. Gather the children and read Hebrews 11:1 together: 'Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.' Explain that faith is believing in God and His promises, even when we can't see Him.

2. Invite the children to walk the Faithful Footsteps Prayer Path. As they step on each sheet of paper, encourage them to say a short prayer related to the word or picture on the sheet. For example, if they step on 'trust,' they might pray, 'God, help me to trust You more.'
3. After everyone has walked the path, gather the children again and ask them to share how they can show faith in God every day. Encourage them to draw or write their own faith symbol on a sheet of paper and take it home as a reminder of their walk of faith.