

GOD GIVES FAITH SO WE CAN FOLLOW HIM

FOUNDATION: GOD IS JOY - GOD GIVES FAITH

BIG TRUTH: GOD GIVES FAITH SO WE CAN FOLLOW HIM

Matthew 10:38-39; Luke 9:23-24; John 12:26; Romans 8:9-11; Galatians 3:11; Ephesians 2:8-10; Hebrews 10:38

BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 1:17

"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'"

BIG IDEAS

- God gives faith so people can follow Him through Jesus.
- God gives faith so people can follow Him in obedience.
- God gives faith so people can follow Him in true joy.

BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 8:5-13

A Centurion sought out Jesus to ask for His help. The Centurion's servant was sick and suffering terribly at home. The Centurion believed that Jesus was the Messiah. God gave the Centurion faith to believe the truth and he was blessed. God gives us faith to follow Him.

FOUNDATION: GOD IS JOY - GOD GIVES FAITH

God Himself is joy. Joy is not just an attribute of God. All joy is found in Him. Psalm 16:11 says, "In your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." We were created to delight and find joy in God. There is always more about God to know, see, experience, and love than we could ever imagine. Sin separated us from God and also from the joy that comes from knowing Him. In the midst of that, God gives us faith to restore our relationship with Him and to know Him again. Not only is God the truest source of joy, but He gives us faith so we can have access to that joy.

BIG AIMS



Every child should know:

- Joy is found in the presence of God
- Faith is a gift from God to hope and trust in Him



Every child should feel:

- The difference between a temporary happiness and a lasting joy



Every child should be able to:

- Memorize John 3:16
- Recognize things that make them happy, but talk about God as the source of joy



Every child should want to:

- To one day have faith in Jesus to save them from their sins
- To experience true joy in Christ alone

FAMILY DEVOTION: FOLLOWING IN OBEDIENCE

God gives us faith so that we can follow Him. Our faith allows us to know how to obey God. We can follow God in obedience because He gives us faith to know what pleases Him.

GOD GIVES FAITH SO WE
CAN FOLLOW HIM**BIBLE VERSE: ROMANS 1:17**

“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, ‘The righteous shall live by faith.’”

Faith comes from God.

- God is the beginning of all things.
- We receive faith from God.
- We are able to believe in God and all that He does because He gives us faith to believe.
- Without God giving us faith, we cannot believe in Him.

Faith reveals God’s righteousness.

- We understand who God is because He gives us faith to understand.
- When He gives us faith, we understand that God is perfect and holy.
- Faith helps us see that God is the most holy being of all.
- It also helps us see that all the God does is right and perfect.
- Faith helps us know that God is righteous.

Faith enables us to be righteous.

- We are not born righteous.
- We cannot make ourselves righteous.
- Our own good works are tainted by our sin nature.
- Faith, given to us by God, brings salvation to us.
- When we receive God’s salvation, we are made righteous through His Son.

GOD GIVES FAITH SO WE
CAN FOLLOW HIM**BIBLE STORY: MATTHEW 8:5-13***The Centurion's Faith*

Supporting Scripture: John 10:3-5; John 15:16; 1 John 5:3

Teacher Introduction:

Jesus helped many people during His ministry on earth. He met many people who believed in Him and many who did not. One day, He encountered a Centurion, or Roman guard. The Centurion's servant was very sick and suffering greatly. The Centurion cared about his servant and went to Jesus to ask for help. Jesus heard the Centurion's story and offered to come to his house, but the Centurion told Jesus not to. The Centurion believed in Jesus as the Messiah. He knew that he was not worthy as a Gentile to have Jesus come to his house and he believed that Jesus could heal his servant from afar. Jesus commended the Centurion's faith and blessed him by healing his servant. The Centurion could believe because God gave him faith to believe. Even though the Centurion was not raised a Jew, he still had faith to believe in Jesus as the Messiah. God gave the Centurion faith and helped him follow Jesus. God gives us faith to follow Him. The faith He gives helps us obey Him and brings us joy.

Teaching Guide:

The guide below is provided to help you teach the truth: *The Centurion's Faith*. The three points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Matthew 8:5-13 and teach the truth that God gives people faith to follow Him. Footnotes are provided for further study of the text and God's interaction with His people. Throughout the lesson questions are placed to help you guide the preschoolers to think about and process the truth God gives people faith to follow Him.

Opening Illustration:

Play a game of "Monkey See, Monkey Do" with the children. Ask the children to try very hard to do exactly what you do. Have the children hop on one foot, make a frowning face, happy face, fish face, etc. After you play, lead them in a discussion about how God gives people faith so they can follow Him, just like He helped the Centurion believe in Jesus.

GOD GIVES FAITH SO WE
CAN FOLLOW HIM**BIG IDEA: GOD GIVES FAITH SO PEOPLE CAN FOLLOW HIM THROUGH JESUS.¹****Jesus is the way to God.**

- We are all separated from God because of our sin, but God made a way for our separation to be removed.
- God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt and when we have faith in Jesus, we can know God.
- Jesus is the only way to know God.
- God gives people faith to believe in Jesus and this allows them to know God.
- We gain access to God through our faith in Jesus.
- True faith in Jesus means we turn away from our sin and believe in the work of Jesus on the cross.



Write the word Jesus on a piece of paper. Cut each letter out and hide it throughout the room. Use plastic eggs to hide the letters in to make finding them easier. Ask the children to hunt for the way to know God by finding all the hidden eggs. When they find them all, put the letters together and show them it spells Jesus. Remind them that Jesus is the way we know God and God gives us faith to believe in Him.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd.

- God gives us faith to believe in His Son, Jesus.
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd; He guides His people to follow Him.
- God gives people faith to believe that Jesus is the Good Shepherd and to follow Him.
- God gave the Centurion faith to believe that Jesus is the way to God and the Centurion believed.

Jesus guides us to follow God.

- We cannot please God if we do not follow Jesus.
- God sent Jesus to pay our sin debt and to be our Good Shepherd.
- The way we please God is by believing in His Son.
- Jesus helps us follow God by showing us the way to please Him.
- The faith God gives people helps them follow Jesus as He guides them to please God.

How do we know how to follow God? (Jesus guides us to please God and to follow Him.)

1. John 10:3-5: Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He guides us and leads His people to follow God.

GOD GIVES FAITH SO WE
CAN FOLLOW HIM**BIG IDEA: GOD GIVES FAITH SO PEOPLE CAN FOLLOW HIM IN OBEDIENCE.²****God chooses to give His people faith.**

- We do not choose God, but God chooses us.
- In our sin, we are deceived and blind to His truth.
- God opens our eyes and gives us faith to believe in Him and His Son, Jesus.
- Those to whom God gives faith are His people because they believe in His Son.
- God gives faith so that we might turn away from our sin and follow Him.



Sing “O Be Careful Little Eyes” with the children. Remind them that God gives us faith to obey Him.

The faith God gives allows His people to know Him.

- God’s people know Him because He gives them faith to know Him.
- When God gives people faith to believe, they know His Son and it is through Jesus that we know God.
- When God’s people believe in Jesus, they have access to God and begin to understand more about Him.
- Faith helps God’s people know what God’s commands are and what He desires of His people.

The faith God gives helps His people obey Him.

- We cannot obey God’s commands in our own power.
- In order to know God and obey Him, we must have faith.
- The Centurion could believe in Jesus because God gave him faith.
- God gives His people faith to believe in Him and obey Him.
- When we receive this faith, we know what God requires and we choose to obey Him through the power He gives us.

How do we know to obey God? (God gives us faith to believe and we understand what He requires of us.)

2. John 15:16: God chooses to give people saving faith to believe in Jesus and become His followers.

GOD GIVES FAITH SO WE
CAN FOLLOW HIM**BIG IDEA: GOD GIVES FAITH SO PEOPLE CAN FOLLOW HIM IN TRUE JOY.³****Faith gives God's people a love for Him.**

- God gave the Centurion faith to believe in Jesus and the Centurion's faith produced a love for Jesus.
- The Centurion asked Jesus not to come to his house so Jesus would not be defiled.
- The faith that God gave the Centurion is like the faith that He gives His people.
- This faith produces a love for God in people.



Give each child a heart-shaped piece of paper and markers. Ask the children to decorate their heart and talk with them about how God gives us faith to follow Him joyfully because our faith helps us love Him.

Faith shows us how to love and obey God.

- Man does not naturally seek God.
- God gives man faith that opens his eyes to God and the truth.
- This faith that God gives shows His people how to love God.
- Without faith, people do not know how to love God.
- Without faith, people do not know how to obey God.
- When God gives faith, it produces a loving obedience in His people.

Faith helps God's people obey Him joyfully.

- God gives faith and His people learn more about Him every day.
- This faith produces a love that grows each day.
- The faith that God gives helps His people obey God with a joyful heart.
- Even when circumstances are hard or difficult, God's people can joyfully obey Him because of the faith that He gives.

How can we follow God in true joy? (God gives us faith to believe in Him and love Him. This love helps us obey joyfully.)

3. 3. 1 John 5:3: Those who love God will keep His commandments. God gives His people faith to love and obey Him.

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HOOKS

**Guess The Surprise**

Wrap a surprise in a box and show it to the children. Ask the children to guess what is inside the box. Let them feel the box and shake it before they guess. Next, tell the children what is inside of the box and ask them if they believe you. Open the box and show them the surprise inside. Lead them in a discussion about how God gives us faith to believe in Him and to follow Him.



- God gives us faith to believe in Him.
- When He gives us faith, we love Him and obey Him.
- Because of the faith God gives, we obey Him joyfully because we believe in Him.

**Follow Joyfully**

Play a game of follow the leader. Have the children take turns being the leader and ask the children to follow joyfully. If the leader ask them to skip, they should skip and say "Hooray!" as they skip. After you play several times, lead them in a discussion about how God gives us faith to follow Him joyfully.



- Following God joyfully means we trust Him in every situation.
- It also means we can have joy no matter what because we know God is leading us.