

# GOD GIVES FAITH THAT RAISES THE DEAD TO LIFE

FOUNDATION: GOD IS JOY - GOD GIVES FAITH

## BIG TRUTH: GOD GIVES FAITH THAT RAISES THE DEAD TO LIFE

John 5:24; Romans 3:23-26; 6:13; Ephesians 2:8

## 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

- Through faith we have access to God.
- God gives faith that raises the spiritually dead to life.
- God gives faith that makes all things possible through Him.
- God gives faith that helps His people live for Him.

## BIBLE STORY: MARK 9:14-27; ROMANS 10:9-10

A father's young son was possessed by an unclean spirit. The boy was in great need of healing. The father took the son to Jesus and asked Jesus to heal his son if He could. Jesus did more than heal the son; He gave the father great faith to believe in Him. God gives us faith to believe in 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: FAITH TO LIVE BY

God gives us the gift of faith that helps us believe in Christ. When we believe in Christ, we receive God's Spirit. His Spirit helps us live for Him. We cannot see God's Spirit, but we have faith that He is there and we can know that He is helping us.

# GOD GIVES FAITH THAT RAISES THE DEAD TO LIFE

**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 THAT RAISES  
THE DEAD TO LIFE**BIBLE STORY: MARK 9:14-27; ROMANS 10:9-10***The Demon Possessed Boy*

Supporting Scripture: Hebrews 10:19; Colossians 2:13-14; Matthew 17:20; Hebrews 4:15-16

**Teacher Introduction:**

Jesus helped many people during His ministry on earth. He healed the sick and made the lame whole again. He even helped people who were possessed by unclean, or demonic spirits. One such demon-possessed boy was brought to Jesus' disciples by the boy's father. His father was desperate for help. His son had been possessed by the unclean spirit since childhood. It caused the boy to convulse and throw himself on the ground. He even foamed at the mouth. The disciples could not help the boy, so the people argued with them. Jesus saw the people arguing with the disciples and He began questioning them. The father of the demon-possessed boy wasn't sure that Jesus could help his son, but he asked Him anyway. The father believed in the miracles that Jesus did, but he did not yet believe in Jesus. Jesus wanted the father to believe in more than the miracles, so He taught the father that true faith is believing in Him. The father cried out for Jesus to help his unbelief. Jesus healed the man's son by casting out the unclean spirit. God gives us faith to believe in Him. This faith brings us salvation and makes the impossible possible through Jesus.

**Teaching Guide:**

The guide below is provided to help you teach the truth: *The Demon Possessed Boy*. The four points are the Big Ideas that should guide your lesson as you share from Mark 9:14-27; Romans 10:9-10 and teach the truth that God gives us faith. 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 us faith to believe in Him.

**Opening Illustration:**

Bring in a bandana to use as a blindfold. Take turns blindfolding the children. When a child is blindfolded, hold an object in your hand and describe it to the child. Ask the child if he believes that the object is in your hand. Take the blindfold off and show the object to the child. Once every child has a chance to do this, talk with the children about how faith is believing in things we cannot see. We have faith because God gives us faith. We believe in God because He gives us the faith to believe in Him.

GOD GIVES FAITH THAT RAISES  
THE DEAD TO LIFE**BIG IDEA: THROUGH FAITH WE HAVE ACCESS TO GOD.<sup>1</sup>****Christ's work takes away our sin barrier.**

- We are all born with a sin nature that we inherited from Adam and Eve.
- This sin nature leads us to continue sinning against God.
- Our hearts are sinful and we rebel against God.
- Christ came to earth, lived a sinless life, and then died on the cross for our sin.
- His death on the cross paid the sin debt of every person.
- Because Christ died on the cross for our sin, the sin barrier between man and God has been removed.
- We can be reconciled to God when we repent of our sin and believe in Christ's work on the cross.



Play a game of "London Bridge" with the children. When a child is caught by the bridge and you let them go, tell them that they have access to the other side just like faith gives us access to God.

**Faith in Christ gives us confidence that we can know God.**

- When we have faith in the work that Christ has done, we know that our sin has been forgiven.
- We no longer have to be afraid to approach God because we know that we are in right standing with Him.
- There is no longer a barrier, or separation between God and us.
- We can know God because our sin debt has been paid.
- Our faith in the work of Christ helps us boldly approach God.

**Faith draws us to God.**

- Our faith not only gives us confidence that we can approach God, it draws us to Him.
- Faith is a gift from God and when He gives it to us, we want to know Him more.
- Our faith continues to work inside of us, drawing us closer to God as we become more like Him.

*What gives us access to God? (Our faith in Christ's work removes the barrier between God and us.)*

1. Hebrews 10:19: We can boldly approach God because our sins have been forgiven us through the blood of Jesus.

GOD GIVES FAITH THAT RAISES  
THE DEAD TO LIFE**BIG IDEA: GOD GIVES FAITH THAT RAISES THE SPIRITUALLY DEAD TO LIFE.<sup>2</sup>****We are all dead in our sin.**

- Every person born is born sinful.
- Every person has a sinful heart that is broken because of our sin nature.
- There is no person who is born sinless.
- Jesus was the only person born who lived a sinless life.
- Our sin makes us dead.
- Our sin leads us down a path to death and eternal separation from God.



Bring in two small potted plants. One plant should be alive and the other dead or dying. Show the dying or dead plant to the children and tell them that we are like the plant before we have faith in Christ. Next, show them the living plant and tell them that it is like us when our faith in Christ makes us alive.

**Christ paid our sin debt.**

- God did not leave us dead in our sin.
- He made a way for us to be made alive again.
- He sent His Son, Jesus to pay our sin debt.
- Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on this earth as fully man and fully God.
- He died on the cross for our sin and paid our debt in full.
- Jesus made a way for us to be alive again.

**Faith makes us alive in Christ.**

- God gives us faith to believe in Him and the work of His Son.
- When we believe in the work of Christ, we receive new life.
- Our new life is no longer controlled by our sin nature.
- We live to please God instead of pleasing ourselves.
- Faith gives us new life through Christ.

*How does faith make the spiritually dead alive? (God gives us faith to believe in the work of Christ and it's Christ's blood that makes the spiritually dead alive.)*

2. Colossians 2:13-14: Christ's work on the cross gives us new life. His blood paid our sin debt and makes us alive again.

GOD GIVES FAITH THAT RAISES  
THE DEAD TO LIFE

**BIG IDEA: GOD GIVES FAITH THAT MAKES ALL THINGS POSSIBLE THROUGH HIM.<sup>3</sup>**

**Faith increases our trust in God.**

- After we repent and believe in Jesus, our sin no longer separates us from God.
- When we have faith in Christ, we can know God and become more like Him.
- When we begin to know God more, we understand the greatness of His power.
- Our trust in God grows as our knowledge in Him grows.



Bring in a container of mustard seeds or small seeds. Show the container to the children. Tell them that faith as little as these seeds is enough to move mighty mountains if we believe in God.

**Faith gives us confidence in God's power.**

- As our trust in God grows, our confidence in His power grows.
- Our faith enables us to know God on a personal level.
- We begin to see how God has worked and is working on our behalf in our own lives.
- This knowledge and understanding helps us gain confidence in the power we have in God.
- God's power is great and when He gives us faith, we see this great power.

**Faith shows us God can do anything.**

- When we have faith in Christ, we truly see God's work in our lives.
- We understand how great His power is because He forgives us our sin.
- We understand that God is the mighty Creator of all things and that nothing is too hard for Him.
- Our faith helps us see that God can do anything that He desires.

*What does faith show us is possible through God? (Anything is possible through God.)*

3. Matthew 17:20: When we have great faith, we know that God is powerful and can work powerfully through us.

GOD GIVES FAITH THAT RAISES  
THE DEAD TO LIFE**BIG IDEA: GOD GIVES FAITH THAT HELPS HIS PEOPLE LIVE FOR HIM.<sup>4</sup>****Faith shows us that God understands us.**

- When Jesus met the demon-possessed boy's father, He knew that the father did not have true faith yet.
- Jesus understood the father and showed him how to have true faith.
- God understands His people.
- He helps us see that He understands when He gives us faith.
- We can believe in God and know that He understands us when we have faith in Christ.



Play a game of "Follow the Leader" with the children. Help them try to do exactly as you do, such as jumping on one foot, walking backwards, or skipping. After you play a little while, remind them that faith helps us obey God and live for Him.

**Faith shows us that God helps His people.**

- Jesus did not leave the demon-possessed boy to remain possessed.
- When we have faith in Christ, we see that God helps us.
- God knows us and our struggles and He doesn't leave us to struggle alone.
- Our faith reveals that God is on our side and that He helps us live for Him.

**Faith helps us obey God.**

- When we repent and believe in Christ, God's Spirit comes to live inside of us.
- Through God's Spirit, we can obey God.
- We receive God's Spirit because God gives us faith and helps us see our need for Christ.
- Without faith, we cannot please God or obey Him because we cannot believe in the work of Christ.

*How does God help us live for Him? (God gives us His Spirit when we have faith and His Spirit helps us obey God.)*

4. Hebrews 4:15-16: Christ understands our struggles. He helps us through His Spirit obey God.

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## HOOKS

**Doing the Impossible**

Have the children sit or stand in a circle. Tell them you are going to toss a balloon in the middle of the circle and the children should pass the balloon without using their hands. Help the children keep the balloon going without using their hands. After they try for a few minutes, lead them in a discussion about how faith in Christ helps us know that God can do the impossible.



- When we have faith in God, we know that anything is possible with God.
- God gives us faith that shows us that He can do the impossible.

**Blindfold Journey**

Bring in enough blindfolds for each child. Blindfold the children and take them on a journey around the room. After you reach your destination, lead them in a discussion about how faith means believing in something we cannot see.



- When we have faith, we believe in something we cannot see.
- God gives us faith to believe in Jesus and in Him.

**Faith Art**

Give each child a piece of paper with the word “faith” written on it. Next, help the children trace the word with glue. Next, give the children glitter, confetti, or torn pieces of crepe paper to place over the letters. Lead the children in a discussion about how God gives us faith to live for Him.

- When we repent and believe in Jesus, God gives us faith to believe.
- When we believe, we receive God’s Spirit who helps us live for Him.