1st – 5th GRADE

APRIL 25 – Unit 31.4

THE HALL OF FAITH

MEMORY VERSE:

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice, and let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"
1 Chronicles 16:31

PARENT BIBLE STUDY

It is common to think of faith as something that is just within us—trust and confidence in God. While that is surely part of it, faith doesn't stop there. Faith starts inside of us and always leads to action. The writer of the Book of Hebrews wanted to explain the fullness of faith to the early Jewish Christians. One of the best ways he could do this was to walk through examples of how men and women in the Old Testament had proven to be faithful. The result is Hebrews 11, often known as the Hall of Faith.

Abel had faith when he gave an offering to God, and God accepted his offering. Noah had faith. He believed God when God told him to build an ark to rescue his family.

Abraham had faith when God called him to leave his home. Abraham's wife Sarah had faith when she trusted God to give her a family even though she was too old to have children. Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses had faith, too. Rahab had faith when she hid the Israelite spies in Jericho.

All of these people trusted God, and so did many others. Having faith was not easy. Many suffered, and they died before God's greatest promise—the arrival of Jesus—came true, but they believed that God had a wonderful plan. God was pleased with them because they trusted Him.

This week, share the examples of these heroes of faith to help your kids understand faith in action. We can and should learn from these examples; that is why God gave them to us in Hebrews 11. However, emphasize that every person in this list was a sinner in need of salvation. Each of these heroes needed a greater hero. Point your kids to Jesus, the perfect hero who rescues us from sin.

ACTIVITY

HERO PORTRAITS

WHAT YOU DO:

1. Have the kids open their Bibles to Hebrews 11 and select a person from the list of faithful men and women.
2. Encourage them to draw a portrait of that person on the left side of the paper.
3. Under their portrait, ask them to list a few traits they admire about that person.
4. On the right side of the paper, have them draw someone that they personally know admire then list the traits they admire of that person.

DISCUSSION:

Say • The hall of faith, as chapter 11 of the Book of Hebrews is sometimes called, contains lots of examples of people who did amazing things for God. They couldn't have done any of the amazing things they did without God's power doing it through them. **God works mightily through people who have faith in Him.** When we have faith, we can trust that God will use us in His plans too.

BIBLE VIDEO:

Play the Bible Story Video that goes with this lesson!

BIBLE STUDY

DISTRIBUTE BIBLES AND HELP FAMILY MEMBERS FIND HEBREWS 11.

- Explain that the author of Hebrews is never mentioned in the book, but we do know that the author is a believer who came to know Jesus after hearing from people who heard Jesus, as seen in Hebrews 2:3.
- Like many of the books we have studied over the past weeks, Hebrews was written to encourage Christian believers to hold fast to their faith and deepen their relationship with Jesus.
- Choose a volunteer to read aloud Hebrews 11:39-40.

DISCUSSS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TOGETHER:

1. What is faith? (*being sure that what we hope for will happen, Heb. 11:1*)
2. What trait tied all the Old Testament heroes together? (*their faith, Heb. 11*)
3. Are faithful people rewarded with happy, easy lives? (*No, having faith isn't always easy; Heb. 11:36-37*)
4. What is the reward God gives for faith? *Guide kids to see that God's rewards are bigger than material possessions, fame, glory, or power. Instead, God promises eternal life with Him in the perfect world Jesus will bring when He returns.*
5. Why is faith important? *Help the kids understand that faith is the means by which God provides us salvation, grows us to be more like Jesus, and works His plans through us.*
6. Who are people in your life who have great faith? *Guide kids to think about the men and women they know who have demonstrated great faith. Direct them to consider their parents, the pastors and elders of your church, and the ministry leaders and volunteers they interact with each week.*

God works mightily through people who have faith in Him. God chooses to use people even though He doesn't need us.

PRAY as a family before you close your time together!

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