

# JAM TIME



We hear often hear about the importance of faith, but what is it, really? We hear that all we need is a little bit of it—the size of a mustard seed—but what does that mean? What are we supposed to do with faith? How can we put our faith into action?

We hope this quarter's study on faith answers some of these questions. In this issue of *JAM*, we will learn what faith means and how we should respond to God's love in faith. We will learn about the faith of different personalities in the Bible and how they put that faith into action.

We hope that as you study the lessons in this quarter, you will be confident in your faith and unafraid to share it with others.

With Love,  
The *J.A.M. (Jesus And Me®)* Editorial Team





# LIT PICK

## The Rock and the River

By Kekla Magoon

Chicago is known for many things—an amazing skyline, ridiculously delicious popcorn and pizza, blues music, and among other things, legendary basketball. Kekla Magoon reminds us of another very significant moment in Chicago history. After the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Chicago, among other places, exploded into riots that reflected peoples' frustration and desperation at the time. *The Rock and the River* follows the story of two brothers and their coming of age during the time of the Civil Rights Movement and the Black Panther Party.

This book is a wonderful read. The growing pains of fathers and sons, brothers, African Americans, and the whole nation are woven together in a beautiful tapestry. Stick, also known as Steve, and Sam begin the story in the shadow of their father's powerful presence at the forefront of the Civil Rights Movement. As

the story continues, the boys find themselves attracted to the Black Power Movement, which doesn't appeal to the adults who've been utilizing the nonviolent tactics of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sam and Steve find themselves caught between the ideals and strategies of a movement that they've been familiar with and the Black Panther Party which seems to be brimming with new and accessible ideas.

This story is filled with excitement as a family tries to find its place while seeking justice. The family members and the community come face to face with known and unknown fears and meet some painful challenges, while developing their own identities and forging stronger connections.

If you've never been introduced to this moment in time, this historical fiction will shed light on a difficult and potentially powerful place in our narrative as a people. Enjoy!



# Charity Gives



**T**he aroma of freshly baked cookies and music fills the air of the Montgomery's house. The kitchen table and floor are covered with grocery bags filled with canned goods and other groceries. The chime of the printer, along with the chatter of 15 women preparing care packages, echoes from room to room. Charity is assisting the Sister-to-Sister women's group, founded by her mother, designed to help single mothers in need. Charity is printing labels for the care packages:

*To my sister from afar!*

*You are special no matter where you are!*

*Sister-to-Sister sends you this package during your time of need,  
Sharing and caring is our ultimate deed!*

"Charity, we need more labels," her mother shouted from the kitchen. Sure Mom, they are printing right now," Charity responded.

Charity had asked her BFFs, Shonda and Tasha, to help her that day. "It's so great that your mother organized such an amazing group to help others," said Shonda while stacking the labels to be placed on the care packages.

"I know a lot of single moms are happy because of the Sister-to-Sister women's group," added Tasha.

"Yes they are, and I'm happy to help my mom help others. You know, things have turned around for us since I decided to give up my rebellious ways," Charity explained.

"The mothers are so grateful and appreciative. Some of them tell my mother that they didn't have any food for their children before getting the care package. I asked you guys to help because my mom wants to include teenage girls on staff as mentors. Would you all be interested?"

"Absolutely," Tasha and Shonda said simultaneously.

"It feels so good to help others," Charity said. "My mom is going to be excited!"

## In My Heart

*"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:22, NIV).*

## WORD!

**Hebrews 10:19–31, NIV**—Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, **20** by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, **21** and since we have a great priest over the house of God, **22** let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, **25** not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. **26** If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, **27** but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. **28** Anyone who rejected the law of Moses died without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. **29** How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? **30** For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." **31** It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

## SIDEBAR

### Faith Calls for Perseverance

What is faith? Faith can be defined as believing in something without proof or evidence. Faith becomes the proof and evidence of what you believe. Faith is often practiced in our everyday lives without notice. Sitting in a chair without first testing to see if it will hold you is an act of faith. Standing in the middle of a room without checking first to see that the roof won't cave in is another act of faith. You haven't seen your brain or heart, but you believe that they are there. Having faith brings confidence, hope, and assurance. The writer of Hebrews encourages Christians to fellowship regularly, to be loving toward one another, and to do good deeds. Approach God with a true heart of faith and an unwavering hope.

### How to Hold on to Your Faith in Jesus

1. Believe that Jesus is with you no matter how you feel.
2. Believe in what is written about Jesus in the Bible.
3. Believe no matter what unbelievers say about your God.

## GOT IT!

### A. Enduring Faith

Use Word! to help you put the following statements in the correct order using the numbers 1-5.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The Lord will judge His people.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Brothers and sisters we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place.

### B. Love in Action

Separate into three groups.

1. Use a newspaper or magazine the teacher has provided.
2. Find stories with examples of love in action.
3. Each group will share their stories with the class.

## JAM SESSION

### Steadfast Determination

We can be secure about our spiritual lives. The writer of Hebrews tells us that through faith and because of the blood of Jesus, our sins can be forgiven and we can experience the presence of God in a new and life-giving way. We learned today that Charity experienced God in a new way after changing her rebellious habits and doing something good for others. She was capable of experiencing this new lease on life because of the blood of Jesus that covers our sins. Not only did she do a good deed with her mom's Sister-to-Sister women's group, she influenced her friends to do the same. Charity was excited about giving of her time to help someone else and it also improved her relationship with her mother. *What good deeds have you done lately to help someone else?*

## JAM ON IT!

### Sharing The Faith

Someone is in need of your out-reached hand of support. Someone needs to know about the God you serve. This week, share the Good News about Jesus with at least three people. Use an index card and write a brief paragraph describing something great God has done for you. Share this card with someone you think needs it.

## LAST JAM

**My faith in Jesus is growing daily!**

## QUESTIONS FOR CLASS

**Use this space to write down questions you have about this lesson.**

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## Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.: A Man of Faith



**T**he Jesse Owens Track Team was excitedly boarding the charter bus to the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s monument in Washington, D.C. It was a long-awaited trip for the 30 track members, parents, and chaperones who had worked tirelessly to get here.

Dr. Lee, the organizer of the trip, often shared his "civil rights adventures" with the team. In his deep baritone voice he would say, "I remember it like it was yesterday... I participated in the great March on Washington in 1963 and heard, in person, the famous, 'I Have A Dream' speech."

Julius and Tony, the team's track and field superstars, talked with Dr. Lee about the tumultuous times when African Americans were not treated fairly and were not included in major sporting events. Jesse Owens, a famous African-American track and field superstar, defied all odds when he won four gold medals during the Berlin Olympics.

"I'm going to the Olympics just like Jesse Owens to break some track and field records," Julius chuckled.

"I am too," said Tony. "There's no reason why we can't. With great leaders past and present like Rev. King, Jesse Owens, and of course Dr. Lee, what's stopping us?"

After nine hours, the bus finally pulled up to the parking lot in Washington, D.C. The team's visit to Rev. King's monument was a glorious day of faith.

### In My Heart

*"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1, NIV).*

### WORD!

**Hebrews 11:1–3, 6; Psalm 46:1–3, 8–11, NIV**—Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. **2** This is what the ancients were commended for. **3** By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

**11:6** And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

**Psalm 46:1** God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. **2** Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, **3** though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.

**46:8** Come and see what the LORD has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth. **9** He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. **10** He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." **11** The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.



## SIDEBAR

### Faith Is Assurance

The Bible's ancestors of faith paved the way for future believers. They can be referred to as faith pioneers. These pioneers believed in God despite the challenges they faced. Imagine building a huge ark because God told you a great flood was coming that would destroy the earth. Noah believed what he heard God say. Many laughed at him and thought he was strange, but in the end Noah was right and his entire family, along with some selected animals, were saved. Another faith pioneer was Moses. Picture the sea opening up to dry land so the children of Israel could walk through it. Other pioneers include Daniel in the lion's den and Samson, who had supernatural strength. How about Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who did not burn in the fiery furnace because Jesus was there? These pioneers had faith in God and their faith paid off in the end. Our biblical ancestors responded to God by faith and God responded with approval. Faith can sustain our hope in ways that go beyond that which is tangible. You have the capacity to demonstrate great faith in God in your life.

### How to Apply Faith in All Areas of Your Life

1. Resolve not to give up, no matter how bad or tough the situation.
2. Know that God is greater than any situation you may encounter.
3. Expect God to give you what you need.
4. Don't forget that God's presence is everywhere at the same time.

## GOT IT!

### A. Faith in Our Living God

Use Word! to help you answer the questions.

1. Describe the character of God.

A. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe faith.

A. \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name three things that God says about Himself.

A. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### B. Dear God

Think about some hard times you've experienced in the past. How did you get through? Write a letter to God expressing gratitude for His constant presence during difficult times. When you're done, exchange your letter with another Jammer to see what God has done in their life!

## JAM SESSION

### Steadfast Confidence

Because of all the conflicts in the world, people may lose hope for positive change. According to the writers of Hebrews and Psalms, because God is with us, we can be rescued and change can take place by believing in God's strength. Julius and Tony were about to view the memorial of a man of faith, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who is remembered because he publicly believed God during a tumultuous time in American history—the Civil Rights Movement. Blacks were unfairly treated and suffered greatly, but they prevailed. How many times has God prevailed during your hard times? It takes faith to win and know that God is always there.

## JAM ON IT!

### Faith Pioneers

There are many faith pioneers around you. This week, take the time to interview a person whose faith prevailed during tough times. Continue to interview faith pioneers and create a notebook that you can read to encourage yourself during tough times and also share with others.

**LAST JAM**  
**I have firm confidence!**