

DEAR PRESCHOOL TEACHER

It's a new school year, which means new opportunities to share Jesus with your little ones. The last few school years have had quite a few challenges. I pray this year will be one in which you can truly enjoy the little ones you serve, blessing them, and being blessed.

In this quarter, we will be focusing on faith. We can trust God, we can believe in His goodness, and we can be thankful for His great gifts in our lives. We will explore what it means to serve Him and share His love with others.

At UMI, our mission is for children to know and love God's Word. As an educator, I love to teach God's Word *and* help kids succeed in their academics. Your lesson plans contain a section called "ABC Connect." This is a teaching tip or information on how an activity can help prepare preschoolers for kindergarten and engage them in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activities. Feel free to use these ideas in other areas of your lessons, personalizing them to your students' needs and interests.

The *Teaching Success Kit* includes activities and crafts that will help your children to learn letters, sounds, and numbers, develop fine and gross motor skills, and will also introduce basic STEAM activities and prepare them for kindergarten, all while the Scripture is being taught in a fresh and fun way.

The *Preschool Playhouse*® student and teacher curricula are designed to help you present Bible stories and scriptural principles to preschoolers so that they will know the love the Lord Jesus has for them, will seek to follow Him, and begin a life of telling others about His love. We start with the Scripture passages. From there, you will find lesson objectives which help you to see what we hope for the students to learn and how they will demonstrate their understanding of what has been taught each week.

Teaching aids, such as *Craft Kingdom*®, *Scripture Scenes*®, and the *Teaching Success Kit*, are sold separately. The *Sing-Along CD* is provided in the *Teaching Success Kit*. These wonderful materials enhance the learning experience by reinforcing the lesson concepts through intentional and fun activities, and hopefully make your job easier!

I remember last year writing about Fall 2020 being a challenging and scary time. Fall 2021 came with its own fears and challenges. I am so thankful that we serve a good, kind, and loving Father who watches out for His children. We can trust in His plan of redemption and His work in our lives. Thank you for loving and blessing children. You are an essential worker for the Kingdom!

Praying for you each and every Sunday,

Brooke Zuidema
Preschool Playhouse® Editor

ONE-HOUR CLASS SCHEDULE

ACTIVITY	LENGTH	PURPOSE
OPEN THE LESSON: Focused Learning Center	10 minutes	Informal learning activities are provided, and the lesson concept is introduced.
PRESENT THE SCRIPTURES: Life Application Story (student folder—page 1)	6 minutes	The theme is introduced through an age-appropriate story for early readers while helping the teacher determine what the students already know about the topic.
READING THE BIBLE STORY: Bible Story (student folder—page 2)	7 minutes	The Bible Story is written so that early readers can read along. Discussion questions and presentation ideas help the students retell the Bible Story to show their understanding.
EXPLORE THE MEANING: Memory Verse	5 minutes	The students will memorize or enhance their understanding of the Memory Verse.
Action Time	5 minutes	The students will use large muscles to engage in games, songs, and activities that reinforce the lesson theme.
NEXT STEPS FOR APPLICATION: Knowing and Growing (student folder—pages 3 and 4)	12 minutes	These pencil and paper activities correspond to the Life Application Story and the Bible Story. Ideas for discussion are included.
Worship Time	5 minutes	These activities reinforce the topic and aid children in sharing the lesson with parents.
Craft Kingdom®	10 minutes	The children will create age-appropriate crafts that help them focus on God in their lives.

NOTES

T4T—TIPS FOR TEACHERS

SHYNESS

You've just presented a wonderful Sunday School lesson, and now you're eager to reflect and review with your students. There's a feeling of accomplishment in seeing so many hands raised, eager to share what's been learned. However, you notice one or two children sitting quietly off to themselves seemingly unmoved by the excitement around them. You may assume they were not listening, or wonder whether your voice and tone projected in a way that stimulated their interest. Chances are you did a fantastic job preparing and presenting your lesson. So what's wrong? You probably have shy children in your class.

Shyness can result from feelings of discomfort, apprehension in social situations, or fear. These responses can arise when children enter a new class, meet new people, or are separated from their parents. Shy children may have little to say and may be reluctant to participate in classroom activities. As you address shyness your goal is to elicit participation from your shy students by helping them feel more comfortable in your classroom. Begin your effort by reminding them, "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (from 2 Timothy 1:7).

Here are some strategies to address the students with shyness in your classroom:

- **Accept & Address Shyness.** Do not perceive shyness as a problem, but look at it as an individual part of a child's character. Accept each student as unique and valued. Smile as you greet each child in the class. This will tell all of your students they are valued from the moment they arrive. Plan inclusive group activities, such as singing songs while holding hands. Children who are shy can be a part of the activity without feeling fearful, should they choose not to sing. Pairing students or placing a child

near you can also help put shy students at ease and build confidence.

- **Involve Parents.** Ask the parents how they effectively communicate with their child at home. Ask for suggestions on how to adapt those strategies to the classroom. Speaking with parents will help you gain insight into their child's likes and dislikes. Encourage parents to occasionally sit in the classroom to help lessen a child's feeling of anxiousness. Encourage the parents to talk with their child about the topics, songs, and games that have been highlighted in class.
- **Communicate.** Use verbal and non-verbal skills to help shy students recognize your classroom as a place of comfort and safety. Smile often and use good eye contact. Shy students may have to be called upon to answer questions. Verbally praise the child for trying. Praising a child's effort will ease his or her willingness to try again. Offer rewards, such as colorful stickers, for desired behavior. Using toys such as stuffed animals, puppets, and toy phones throughout your lessons can facilitate verbal communication. Gradually introducing your students to different activities will produce indicators (smiles, a raised hand, singing, and playing), which will let you know that you're making progress.

The more comfortable your students become, the more likely they will participate in class. Be patient as your students develop the courage to speak up. Many children will leave their shyness behind as they grow and mature, while others may always have a sense of shyness about them. As teachers who appreciate and stand on God's Word as the ultimate teaching plan, you will feel pleased knowing you have contributed in helping all your students learn about God's goodness.

Quarter At-A-Glance September 2022

A Living Faith

This study focuses on faith. The first unit uses passages from Hebrews to move participants toward a definition of faith, while the second and third units continue the study of faith through the lens of the Early Church.

UNIT 1 • What Is Faith?

These lessons engage learners in responsive obedience to God's love that is revealed in Jesus. This response is an act of faith.

UNIT 2 • Who Understands Faith?

The first two lessons focus on Stephen's message and martyrdom. The third lesson explores the repercussions for those who treat faith as a commodity. The fourth lesson looks at the faith that guides both Philip the evangelist and the Ethiopian seeker to examine the Scriptures together.

UNIT 3 • What Does Faith Cost?

This unit is a four-lesson study of Paul's faith and ministry. The first lesson examines Paul's speech before King Agrippa. The second lesson goes with Paul aboard the ship to Rome. The final two lessons focus on Paul's ongoing ministry even though he is a prisoner.

NEVER GIVE UP!

WEEKLY THEME:

FAITH CALLS FOR PERSEVERANCE

BASED ON:

Hebrews 10:19–31, NIV

KEY VERSE:

Hebrews 10:23, NIV

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Knowledge: Preschoolers will review the Bible Story by identifying good choices and bad choices on cards.

Attitude: Preschoolers will recognize the importance of praying in faith for others.

Action: Preschoolers will name people they want to pray for.

DEAR TEACHER

This lesson teaches students that we should be strong in our faith. God welcomes us to come to Him and He will always do what He says.

SUPPLY LIST

SECTION	MATERIALS
Focused Learning Center	Building blocks, puzzles, paper, other ideas in the <i>Teaching Success Kit</i>
Action Time	Individual cards with choices on them

OPEN THE LESSON

Focused Learning Center

Provide a variety of toys and games for the children to play with that require perseverance. Some children may want to try puzzles, building blocks, or paper airplanes.

If time and space permit, you may want to try a mild indoor competitive game that gets the children up, such as “Simon Says.” For other suggestions, see the list provided in the *Teaching Success Kit*. Explain to the children that sometimes things are difficult, but we can have perseverance by continuing to try, to never give up!

ABC Connect: Write the letter *P* for perseverance on the board. Say the sound together. Say the word together, and say together, “Perseverance means never give up!”

PRESENT THE SCRIPTURES

Life Application Story

(Distribute student folders.)

Before reading, explain to students that prayer

is a way of getting closer to God. When we pray, we can pray that God will help other people. In the story, we will read about a girl who prayed for someone who was sick.

While reading, ask the students if they pray for others, and if so, what do they pray for? Continue reading.

After reading, explain to the students that we have been given access to God through Jesus. When we pray, we should be confident and expect an answer from God.

Reading the Bible Story

Never Give Up!

The Bible Story in the student folders is designed for preschool students to read. The Scripture Scene® is provided as a visual aid. Be sure to study the information on this Bible passage in the white pages of the Teacher Guide.

We should feel good about being near to God through Jesus. So let us get even closer to God, being sure of our faith. We should be faithful

because God is faithful. We should love each other, do good things, and always encourage each other. We should help each other love God and others. Never give up!

If we keep doing bad things and break God's rules when we know we shouldn't, that is called sin. God does not like for us to sin. Sin has consequences. God is pleased when we love each other and do kind things. Let's keep worshiping together and following God.

EXPLORE THE MEANING

Memory Verse

"Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart"
(from Hebrews 10:22, NIV).

Use hand motions to help the children learn this verse. For "draw near" have the children motion with their hands in a "come here" motion. For "God" have them point up. For "sincere heart" place hands on heart or make a heart shape with fingers.

Action Time

Before class: Create cards with choices that help us to draw nearer to God such as: Church, Pray, Help, Love, Worship, Share, Kindness. Also create cards that include choices that don't please God such as: Fight, Ignore, Pout, Steal, Lie, Hurt.

During class: Start the children on a line on one side of the room with an open space in front of them. When you read off the things that please God, have the children take 3 steps forward. When you read a card that has a bad choice on it, have the children take a step back. See if they can get across the room. They might want to play the game a few times, each time you can turn the cards into different scenarios to help solidify the concept in their minds. For instance, "Sydney did not want to share her doll with her sister," or "Rayshawn was sad, so he prayed to God for help."

NEXT STEPS FOR APPLICATION

Knowing

A Little Faith

The preschoolers will learn to spell the word "faith." As you go through the rows of pictures,

say the letter, and then sound it out. Then ask volunteers to say what each picture represents. Ask them to circle which picture matches the sound of the letter you called out. Answers: F-feather, A-apple, I-igloo, T-tooth, H-house.

ABC Connect: *Identifying letters and their sounds help develop early reading skills.*

Growing

In God's Presence

Tell the preschoolers that when we pray, we are closer to God. Then have the students color the picture of the children praying.

Worship Time

Play a lively worship song, and praise God! Lift your hands and shout praises to the Lord. Explain to the students that one way the Israelites got closer to God was to go into the Temple and pray. But remind the preschoolers that because Jesus sacrificed His life for us, we can be bold and feel sure about our closeness to God. He is always with us, and we can pray anywhere and anytime.

Ask the children for whom they would like to pray. Instruct the children to kneel. Lead the prayer but ask volunteers if they'd like to pray for the person they named. End by giving God thanks for hearing and answering the prayers.

Craft Kingdom®

Craft Kingdom® provides directions to complete a craft that reinforces the lesson. Play the *Sing-Along* CD as students work.

NOTES

Faith Calls for Perseverance

Bible Background • HEBREWS 10:19–31

Printed Text • HEBREWS 10:19–31 | Devotional Reading • ROMANS 5:1–5

Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: KNOW Jesus' sacrificial death opens the way to the presence of God; FEEL the importance of holding on to faith in Jesus; and SHARE our faith with others.

In Focus

Anthony and Angie dated for one year and had been friends for eight. One Saturday, Anthony met with Mr. Williams, Angie's father. Anthony said to him,

"May I have your permission to ask Angie to marry me? I love and respect your daughter and I want to make her my partner for life. She is my blessing from God. I can't imagine life without her."

Mr. Williams thought for a moment then smiled. "You have my permission, Anthony," he said. "Let's pray for your lives together."

One evening as Anthony and Angie walked through the park, Anthony knelt on one knee and proposed. Angie was speechless. As tears ran down her cheeks, she said,

"I have made too many mistakes in my life. You can't truly love me, because I have not forgiven myself. I don't deserve a life with you. I love you, but I can't marry you!"

As Angie started to leave, Anthony said, "We all make mistakes, but God forgives us when we sincerely come to Him."

Through faith in Christ, our sins are forgiven and we have a new life. In today's lesson, we can develop a personal relationship with Jesus by faith and enter into the presence of God.

Keep in Mind

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;"
(Hebrews 10:23, KJV)

Focal Verses

KJV **Hebrews 10:19** Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

The People, Places, and Times

Holy of Holies. It was located in the innermost sanctuary of the temple. Separated from the other parts of the temple by a thick curtain, the Holy of Holies was specially associated with the presence of Yahweh, God. In the early years of the existence of the temple, the Holy of Holies contained the Ark of the Covenant, which represented God's presence with the people of Israel.

High Priest. He was the one in charge of the temple worship. It was a hereditary position based upon descent from Aaron. Normally, the high priest served for life. Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies and only on the Day of Atonement.

Hebrews. Because there are references to religious sacrifices and ceremonies, the book of Hebrews was probably written before the

destruction of the temple in Jerusalem in A.D. 70. The name of the author is not given, but the person is a "brother" of Timothy (Hebrews 13:23). The setting for the book is a period when Jewish Christians underwent severe persecution from the Romans and Jews, both socially and physically. It's clear that the author was knowledgeable of the Old Testament because there are direct quotations from it as he argues the superiority of Jesus Christ and faith.

Background

Sacrifices were practiced from the earliest of times in the Old Testament. Sacrifices from the produce of the land and firstborn of the flock were offered by Cain and Abel; Noah built an altar and offered sacrifices after he left the ark. The Mosaic sacrifices were prior to Christ's

ultimate sacrifice on the Cross. Animals were imperfect sacrifices that could not completely purify and atone for the sins of the people. If they could, they would have ceased. The annual sacrifice on the Day of Atonement was a visible reminder of the sins of humanity.

The writer expressed the importance and superiority of Christ's priesthood and the New Covenant to the Levitical priesthood and the Mosaic covenant. The Levitical high priest could only enter the Holy of Holies, which was the most holy place (inner sanctuary of the temple) one day a year, the Day of Atonement, the 10th day of the seventh month of the Jewish calendar (September-October). On the Day of Atonement, the high priest made reconciling sacrifices for the sins of the entire nation. The images that the writer revealed about the Day of Atonement emphasize the superiority of the priesthood of Christ.

In Chapter 9 of Hebrews, the writer explained that the *diatheke*—the Greek word for agreement, covenant, or arrangement—was placed into effect when Christ died (Hebrews 9:11–12, 24–28). The new covenant, which was initiated when Christ died, frees believers from the bondage of the first covenant. God took away the Levitical sacrificial system, which was the first arrangement, when He established the perfect sacrifice—Jesus Christ.

At-A-Glance

1. The Priesthood of Christ Is Superior (Hebrews 10:19–21)
2. The Priesthood of Christ and Our Profession of Faith (vv. 22–25)
3. The Priesthood of Christ and Knowledge of the Truth (vv. 26–27)
4. The Priesthood of Christ and How God Will Judge His People (vv. 28–31)

In Depth

1. The Priesthood of Christ Is Superior (Hebrews 10:19–21)

In chapters 5 through 10 of the book of Hebrews, the writer has explained that the priesthood of Christ is superior to the Levitical priesthood, which was made at Mount Sinai. The Levitical priesthood could not bring the people to perfection. There was no permanent reconciliation between the people and God through the temporary animal sacrifices. The people needed the perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ, who gave His life once to restore the people to a relationship with God. The Levitical high priests atoned for all sins of the people on the Day of Atonement. Every year, the high priest entered the Holy of Holies where he made a sacrifice for the nation's sins. A curtain prevented anyone from seeing the inner sanctuary. When Jesus died for the sins of humanity, the curtain was torn open, permitting anyone to enter the holiest of all—God's presence. The high priest was no longer required for believers to be forgiven. By a "new and living way" (Hebrews 10:20), believers can go directly to God through faith in Christ.

During biblical times, the high priest passed through a veil to enter the inner sanctuary where God's presence existed. Because of Christ's sacrificial death on the Cross, believers can now personally come before God. Christ shed His blood to give humanity the ability to come before God's presence by faith. Our High Priest is Jesus Christ, who experienced the pain, temptations, and trials that we experience as believers. By the righteousness of Christ, the Superior Priest, we can approach God with "boldness ... by the blood of Jesus" (Hebrews 10:19). Through the shed blood of Christ, we can come before our Creator by faith. Have you accepted Christ by faith and experienced a relationship with God that is only available through Christ, the Superior Priest?

2. The Priesthood of Christ and Our Profession of Faith (vv. 22–25)

Through Christ, we can freely enter into the presence of God. Through faith in Christ's work on our behalf, we have "full assurance," or certainty, that our sins are forgiven. There is an allusion to Christian baptism when the writer refers to "our hearts sprinkled" and "bodies washed with pure water" (Hebrews 10:22). Because of the eternal efficacy of the blood of Christ, our consciences are cleansed. When the high priest entered the "holy place . . . He shall put on the holy linen coat . . . the linen breeches . . . a linen girdle . . . these are holy garments" and he must be cleansed; therefore "shall he wash his flesh in water" (Leviticus 16:3-4). Likewise, the believer must be cleansed before he or she can come before the Holy One. While we are declared "not guilty" because of the work of Christ, we need to cleanse ourselves daily by turning away from sin and turning to God to experience the fullness of relationship with Him. We must give ourselves completely to God and maintain a personal relationship with Jesus.

The writer encourages believers to "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering" (Hebrews 10:23). God reveals His promises and truths through His Word; thus, we must embrace God's Word and resist temptation and opposition. His promises are our treasures that we believe with a confident expectation. The foundation of our faith, therefore, is based upon the integrity and righteousness of Christ. We have hope because "God is faithful" (1 Corinthians 1:9). Although the Jewish Christians were experiencing persecution, the writer urges the believers to resist the temptation to apostasy. He wants to reassure the believers by calling them to remember, "He (God) is faithful that promised"; God will do what He has promised (Hebrews 10:23).

The writer instructs the believers to "consider"—which means to observe or contemplate—each other (Hebrews 10:24). Believers must provoke or stir up the qualities of love and good works toward each other (Hebrews 10:24). The writer knew believers could have an impact on one another by loving and doing good deeds for each other.

Because of the fear of persecution, some of the believers had stopped attending worship services; therefore, the writer encourages believers to pull together to stir up loving and active faith. The fellowship of believers is a source of encouragement; it is an opportunity to share faith and grow stronger. The writer urged the believers to get involved in encouraging or "exhorting one another" with the truth (Hebrews 10:25). The fellowship of believers promotes accountability; it is the opportunity to worship and pray with others. As you fellowship with the body of believers, encourage someone today!

3. The Priesthood of Christ and Knowledge of the Truth (vv. 26–27)

The writer of Hebrews reminds believers that if they "sin willfully" they deliberately reject Christ (Hebrews 10:26). It is a conscious rejection of God after receiving the truth and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The writer does not refer to an occasional act of sin. God sent Jesus to die for our sins; "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Believers should not willfully rebel against God's provisions after receiving and fully understanding the "knowledge of the truth," which is Christ's offer of salvation (Hebrews 10:26).

The consequences of rejecting God are "judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries," and there is no hope of forgiveness (Hebrews 10:27). Thus, those who reject Christ and disobey God are His adversaries. There is one certain judgment,

death and destruction, for obstinate apostates. The apostates will experience the wrath of God because there is no other help for sinners who reject their only remedy—salvation through accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

4. The Priesthood of Christ and How God Will Judge His People (vv. 28–31)

The Old Testament refers to the sin of idolatry that requires “two witnesses, or three witnesses ... (to) be put to death” (Deuteronomy 17:6). The judgment for idolatry was death by stoning, but there is a worse punishment for someone who rejects the word of Christ. If someone considers the “blood of the covenant ... an unholy thing,” the person grieves the “Spirit of grace,” the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 10:29). The person that rejects the Spirit of God will receive a punishment greater than a physical death.

Judgment belongs to God for “the LORD shall judge his people” (Deuteronomy 32:36). There is no other sacrifice for sin except Christ’s sacrifice on the Cross. If someone rejects God’s mercy, he or she will receive God’s judgment. The writer of Hebrews states, “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Hebrews 10:31). The apostate will experience an eternal punishment from God’s hands. Believers, who have received the mercy of God through Christ, are saved and have nothing to fear.

Search the Scriptures

1. What is the “Holy of Holies” (Hebrews 10:19)?
2. What is the “new and living way” that Jesus has prepared for believers to come into the presence of God (Hebrews 10:20)?
3. Explain the difference between a “willful sin” and an “occasional sin.” (Refer to the “knowledge of the truth” and the effects of deliberately rejecting “the truth” that are discussed in Hebrews 10:26.)

Discuss the Meaning

1. How can we draw near and remain in the presence of God each day? How can we truly experience God’s presence?
2. When we accept Christ, He responds, “henceforth, I call you not servants ... I have called you friends” (John 15:15). What should be our response to Christ as believers? Does your relationship with Christ reveal that He is your friend?

Liberating Lesson

Faith is effective when we depend on God and rest in what Christ has done on the Cross. The writer of Hebrews urged believers to recognize the superiority of our faith and live in obedience to God each day. Through Christ, we have an eternal reward and significant privileges that we can experience through our new life in Christ. Through Christ, we can experience God’s presence and develop a relationship with Him. We can grow in faith and experience a deeper relationship with God when we trust and believe without doubts and concerns that the world presents. The world is temporary, but our life with God is eternal. Each day we must trust God and hold on to our faith and then share our faith with others. When we share our love for God, we can encourage others and introduce them to a new life through Christ.

Application for Activation

The world focuses on tangible rewards, promotions, and recognition with financial bonuses. The world encourages the pursuit of tangible endeavors and earthly wealth with retirement plans focused on life in the world. Retirement plans can be important, but as Christians, our focus is greater. Because we have accepted Christ by faith, we are friends of Christ with a purpose to share our love for Christ through faith. Consider local ministries that allow you to share your faith in God. Volunteer

your time to share your love for God with people who do not know Him or share your faith and encourage believers who are homebound or sick. Help others to remain faithful and experience the presence of God each day. Make a daily affirmation to share your faith. Finally, ask God for boldness to share your faith with others. God will give you the opportunity and bless your desire to be faithful.

Follow the Spirit

What God wants me to do:

Remember Your Thoughts

Special insights I have learned:

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Say It Correctly

Abihu. uh-BAHY-hyoo.

Nadab. NAY-dab.

Daily Bible Readings

MONDAY

A Great Faith
(Matthew 8:5-13)

TUESDAY

A Saving Faith
(Romans 10:8-17)

WEDNESDAY

A Justifying Faith
(Galatians 2:15-21)

THURSDAY

An Examined Faith
(2 Corinthians 13:5-10)

FRIDAY

An Enduring Faith
(Romans 5:1-5)

SATURDAY

An Exemplary Faith
(1 Thessalonians 1:2-10)

SUNDAY

The Full Assurance of Faith
(Hebrews 10:19-31)

WE BELIEVE

WEEKLY THEME:

FAITH IS ASSURANCE

BASED ON:

Hebrews 11:1–3, 6; Psalm 46:1–3, 8–11, NIV

KEY VERSE:

Hebrews 11:1, NIV

LESSON OBJECTIVES

Knowledge: Preschoolers will define trust by naming people in their lives that are trustworthy.

Attitude: Preschoolers will want to trust those who love and care for them.

Action: Preschoolers will state their trust in God and name people they will tell about their belief in God.

DEAR TEACHER

This lesson teaches students that God loves and cares for us. We can have faith in Him and trust that He is always there to love and protect us.

SUPPLY LIST

SECTION	MATERIALS
Focused Learning Center	Plastic alphabet letters, large bowl half-filled with water, <i>Teaching Success Kit</i>

OPEN THE LESSON

Focused Learning Center

Make “Faith Soup.” Ask the children if they know the alphabet. Recite the alphabet with them. Then, use plastic alphabet letters and help the students spell out FAITH, TRUST, and HOPE. Sound out each letter with the preschoolers and have them take turns adding the letters of each word to a large bowl of water. Briefly discuss and define each word. (Check the *Teaching Success Kit* for preschool-friendly definitions and short activities to demonstrate each word.)

PRESENT THE SCRIPTURES

Life Application Story

(Distribute student folders.)

Before reading, explain to the students that faith is made up of trust and hope. When we have faith in someone, it means we trust that person. Introduce the story by telling the preschoolers that they will read about a boy who could trust in his family members. Begin reading the story.

While reading, ask the students if they have aunts and uncles or other people, that do special things for them. Ask a student to share a quick story about someone special in his or her life. Continue reading.

After reading, explain to the students that God loves and cares for us, too. Because of His love for us, we can always trust that He will take good care of us.

Reading the Bible Story

We Believe

The Bible Story in the student folders is designed for preschool students to read. The Scripture Scene® is provided as a visual aid. Be sure to study the information on this Bible passage in the white pages of the Teacher Guide.

Faith is believing in something, even when we can't see it. Faith brings hope. Because of faith, we know and believe that God created the universe. He created everything. Even though we couldn't see it, we believe it.

Believing in God pleases Him. But if we don't believe in Him, we cannot please God. It is good to believe that He is real and that He blesses those who come to Him. God will always help us.

God is our safety and strength. He's always there when we need Him so we should not be afraid, even when bad things happen on the earth.

We know that God has done great things! We can see them and celebrate them. We can be at peace knowing that He is God and He is with us. He protects us like a castle protects the people inside of it.

EXPLORE THE MEANING

Memory Verse

“Without faith it is impossible to please God”
(from Hebrews 11:6, NIV).

To help the children learn the verse, have them hop forward every time you say a word together. You can start by saying one word at a time and have them repeat after you, then add a phrase at a time.

Action Time

Break the class into two groups. Have the groups face each other. Teach them the cheer, "We believe in God, yes we do, we believe in God, how about you?" Have each group say the cheer back and forth to each other. You can have them use different voices such as whispers, deep voice, high voice, etc. Say, "Believing in God pleases Him. We can also tell others about Him, so they can believe, too!"

NEXT STEPS FOR APPLICATION

Knowing

Safe in God

Preschoolers will draw a line through the maze to get the boy to the safe place, which is God.

ABC Connect: Drawing lines helps with fine motor skills.

Growing

Trust God

Remind the preschoolers that we can always trust God. Look at the pictures in the student folder. Ask volunteers to describe the action in

each picture and whether the students have ever felt afraid in similar situations. Ask the children, “When can we trust God?” Their answer should be “always.”

Worship Time

Sings songs of worship and praise together, especially songs that talk about belief and faith in God. Close in prayer, having each child who chooses to pray, "I believe in you, God, help me to tell others about you."

Craft Kingdom®

Craft Kingdom® provides directions to complete a craft that reinforces the lesson. Play the *Sing-Along* CD as students work.

NOTES

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There is no handwriting or printed text on the page.

Faith Is Assurance

Bible Background • HEBREWS 11:1–7; PSALM 46:1–11 | Printed Text • HEBREWS 11:1–3, 6; PSALM 46:1–3, 8–11 | Devotional Reading • PSALM 27:1–6

Aim for Change

By the end of the lesson, we will: KNOW the meaning of faith and its implication for our lives; FEEL God’s constant presence; and DEVELOP a practice of relying on God for positive change.

In Focus

The students knew today’s lecture was going to be about the terrorists’ attacks on September 11, 2001, but they wondered why it was going to be discussed in their African American Studies class.

Professor Williams started the class by asking the students what they thought of the movie she assigned, “The World Trade Center.” Several students shared their critiques of the movie. When she asked what was missing, the room was silent.

Then a student asked, “Were the Black people on the board behind you also directly affected by the attacks?”

“Yes, Deshawn,” Professor Williams said. “Not only were the stories of African Americans left out of the news coverage at that time but the real life account of Jason Thomas, a former U.S. Marine who helped to rescue New York Port Authority police officers from out of the rubble, was cast as a white man in the movie. It’s as if anyone Black was scrubbed from this event.”

She told the students that over 260 African Americans died in New York; Washington DC; and Shanksville, PA on that day.

Professor Williams continued, “These stories aren’t just important for their families, and the nation at large, but for us as African Americans. Mr. Thomas had the faith and commitment to do the work he was called to do, even though it could have cost him his life.”

In today’s lesson, we learn that when we experience conflicts in life, we can trust God by faith to see us through.

Keep in Mind

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
(Hebrews 11:1, KJV)

Focal Verses

KJV Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Psalms 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

2 Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

3 Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah.

46:8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth.

9 He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire.

10 Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

11 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

The People, Places, and Times

Sons of Korah. Psalms 42 through 49 were written by the sons of Korah, who were temple musicians and assistants. The Korahites were among the chief Levitical families; they were listed as “gatekeepers.” Korah was a Levite who led a rebellion against Moses. Although Korah was killed, his family remained faithful to God and continued to serve in His temple. King David appointed men from the clan of Korah to serve as choir leaders. Later, the choir leaders continued to serve as temple musicians for hundreds of years.

Psalms. The book of Psalms is a series of five collections: Book I (Psalms 1–41), Book II (Psalms 42–72), Book III (Psalms 73–89), Book IV (Psalms 90–106) and Book V (Psalms 107–150). Several authors wrote the collections, and some are anonymous. David wrote at least 73 psalms, and Asaph, sons of Korah, Moses, Solomon, Ethan, and Heman wrote others. Psalms was written over a period of more than 1,000 years, which included the time of Moses

(around 1440 B.C.) to the time of captivity in Babylon (around 586 B.C.). The majority of the books were written during Israel’s wilderness experience and time in Israel, Judah, or Babylon. The title “Psalms” was first used in the Septuagint. The traditional Hebrew title is *tehillim*, which means “praises” but most of the psalms are *tephillot*, which means “prayers.”

Background

The readers of the book of Hebrews knew Scripture and professed faith in Christ. Because of doubt, persecution, or false teaching, the believers, who were Jewish Christians, considered giving up Christianity and returning to Judaism. The writer emphasized the superiority of faith to encourage the Christians of the first century to stand by faith.

Christians were demoralized and discouraged because centuries of tradition were replaced with spiritual freedom based upon faith in Christ. As a result, the believers experienced the wrath of the Jewish religious establishment

because they believed in God's greatest promise—Jesus Christ—the Messiah, who fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament. The writer wanted to prevent believers from rejecting Christianity and returning to Judaism.

The writer explained the superiority of faith by examples of people who demonstrated greater faith. The heroes of faith were intended to encourage the power of faith as the believers adhered to their profession of true religion. Through examples in biblical history, faith is revealed through assurance in God's future promises with the implications that inspire believers to persevere. Through the summary of Jewish history, the heroes of faith challenge believers to grow in faith and live in obedience to God. Psalm 46, which was written by the sons of Korah—who were temple assistants—was a celebration of God's deliverance. The psalm may have been written when the Assyrian army invaded the land and surrounded Jerusalem. As the psalm speaks to ancient Israelites, it speaks to believers today. We need not fear if we trust God. Through faith we can give thanks for God's constant presence in our lives. Because God is with us, we can be rescued. The writer refers to a "river" (Psalm 46:4), which is the tunnel that King Hezekiah built to guarantee a continuous water supply for Jerusalem during times of war. Like the tunnel, God's presence is constant for believers.

At-A-Glance

1. Faith Is Confidence and Certainty (Hebrews 11:1–3)
2. Faith Is Necessary (v. 6)
3. Faith Is Trust in God as Our Refuge (Psalm 46:1–3)
4. Faith Is Trust in God Whose Presence Is Constant (vv. 8–11)

In Depth

1. Faith Is Confidence and Certainty (Hebrews 11:1–3)

The writer of Hebrews begins chapter 11 with a description of faith as "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). The reality of faith is what is "hoped for." Our prayers and hopes are based upon the promises of God. With a firm persuasion and expectation, the writer encouraged the believers to trust that God will perform what He has promised through Christ. We cannot see the future, nor do we know what will happen tomorrow, but our confidence is based upon the certainty of God's trustworthiness. To encourage struggling believers to hold to the superiority of their faith in Christ, the writer refers the believers to the elders of the Old Testament (Hebrews 11:2). The "elders" received a "good report," which was the evidence that they would receive the promise of participating in God's kingdom when it arrives in its fullness. Their actions revealed a genuine faith that will bring honor to the ancient believers.

Many Jewish teachers believed the material universe was created based on God's invisible pattern exemplified in His Word or wisdom. By faith, we believe God created everything out of nothing. Moses detailed the story of creation in Genesis chapter 1; there was a majestic display of power and purpose. With each creation, God "saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21). By faith, we believe God spoke and created the entire universe. Our faith is based upon who God is; our response should be a confident and certain hope in God because He is ever present. Do you have certain and confident faith in God?

2. Faith Is Necessary (v. 6)

Faith reveals the reality of God. "It is impossible to please God" without faith because

faith is necessary to have an active relationship with God; it is necessary to walk with God (Hebrews 11:6, NLT). By faith, we believe in God and trust with certainty the future promises that He has revealed.

The heroes of faith believed and obeyed regardless of the consequences. In the same way, we can believe with a willing trust and please God. Our steadfast confidence is based upon who God is—the creator of the universe. God will recognize and reward our faith because we “diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6). By faith, we realize our own insufficiency and depend on God to work within us and through us. By faith we have confidence in the continual promises of God.

3. Faith Is Trust in God as Our Refuge (Psalm 46:1–3)

The sons of Korah were temple assistants who wrote Psalm 46. The psalmists recognized God as their source of help; they realized God’s complete power and ability to rescue His children. As believers, we do not need to fear because God’s presence is constant. God is our refuge; therefore, we can flee to Him and find security.

Life presents temporary destruction, doubts, and uncertainty, but God’s presence is constant; “therefore will not we fear” (Psalm 46:2). We can appreciate God’s constant presence because He is our mighty fortress. The earth swallowed up Korah, but the psalmists did not fear. We can be fearless with God as our present help, too. God is not a temporary resource; instead, God is our eternal refuge. The psalmists remind believers, “Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake,” God’s power is complete and victory in Him is certain (Psalm 46:3). We should not be troubled when the earth is unstable because our confidence is not found in the earth. Our confidence is based upon God, our sound eternal footing.

4. Faith Is Trust in God Whose Presence Is Constant (vv. 8–11)

The psalmist urges the believers to “behold the works of the LORD” (Psalm 46:8). Recognize the presence of God and His ability to save His children. He is the creator who cares for nature and all living things. As believers, we can trust in God’s strength and His constant presence. Those who oppose God will experience desolation and face His judgment. But believers can stand in awe of God’s power.

The psalmist encourages believers to respond with a generous heart. We can, as the psalm states, “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). Even though war, destruction, and famine are a part of the world, God is still in charge. He is sovereign. Final victory belongs to Him, and He will be exalted. Therefore, we can rest assured and know with comfort that He is Lord.

Search the Scriptures

1. How did the writer of Hebrews describe faith (Hebrews 11:1)?
2. Who received a “good report” (Hebrews 11:2)?
3. Why is faith necessary to “understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God” (Hebrews 11:3)?

Discuss the Meaning

1. The writer explains that faith is required to understand that God created the universe where nothing existed. Genesis 1 details the awesome creation of the universe that was formed by God’s Word. Faith is the beginning of our relationship with God. What qualities of faith are necessary to continue to grow and strengthen our relationship with God?
2. When Korah, Dathan, and Abiram led 250 princes against the priesthood of Aaron and Moses’ general authority, God punished the leaders by allowing their challengers to be

swallowed up by the earth. A fire consumed 250 of them. The psalmists, the sons of Korah, reiterate God's presence and encourage readers not to fear. How can we maintain a quiet confidence in the midst of economic turmoil, natural disasters, and continual wars?

Liberating Lesson

If we watch the news, listen to the radio or interact with others on social media, we hear about the current state of the world. The pandemic has devastated communities in different ways. Many people are homeless, unemployed, or on the verge of both. Natural disasters occur, and the number of fatalities grows. War and destruction are continually reported by the news. Peace seems impossible. While positive change seems nonexistent, we must not lose hope. God is ever present. If we trust God, we will be rescued, and change will occur through God's strength. We can rely on God for positive change as we realize our faith will be tested. How has your faith in God become stronger or weaker in light of world events, catastrophes, and unrest? How much do you think the world dismisses the constant help of God as a result of abundant negativity, catastrophe, and unrest?

Application for Activation

To remain faithful with steadfast confidence and certainty, we must keep our eyes on God through continual prayer. We must remain hopeful for positive change, as we believe that God is in control. We can have faith in God's constant presence even today because we know He is our refuge in times of trouble. Make a commitment to regularly attend Bible study and Sunday school to increase your awareness of God's power in troubling times. Join ministries that actively build the community and encourage people who are suffering or do not know God. Allow God's presence to be evident through your actions and words.

Follow the Spirit

What God wants me to do:

Remember Your Thoughts

Special insights I have learned:

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Say It Correctly

Abel. **AY**-buhl.
Cain. **KAYN**.

Daily Bible Readings

MONDAY

The Trusting Child
(Mark 10:13–16)

TUESDAY

The Trust of the Weak
(2 Chronicles 14:2–12)

WEDNESDAY

The Prayer of Trust
(Psalm 3)

THURSDAY

The Security of Trust
(Psalm 4)

FRIDAY

The Confidence of Trust
(Psalm 27:1–6)

SATURDAY

The Patience of Trust
(Psalm 27:7–14)

SUNDAY

The Certain Refuge
(Hebrews 11:1–3, 6; Psalm 46:1–3, 8–11)

Notes
