

Junior Church 26/01/25 Hebrews 11:1 – 16

The Big Idea

*This passage is all about having **faith** in what we do not see.*

Key verse: Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. (Great memory verse!)

Hebrews 11 is often referred to as the 'Faith Hall of Fame' - a list of old testament characters who demonstrated how to **live by faith**.

Teaching Time

(Any pictures/puppets/acting for the biblical characters would be great!)

Discuss/demonstrate things that we believe in even though we can't see them. Gravity, wind, love. (Use illustrations here - jumping/bubbles) *How do we know they're there? We see them working, we remember **what's happened before**.*

Can we see God? How do we know he is there? (Explore with children) How do we know he loves us? How do we know heaven is real? Do you ever find it hard to believe that God is real/heaven is real? That Jesus will come back? That he is with us? (His promises).

God knows that sometimes it's hard to believe/have faith when we can't see him, or believe what he says when we can't see it yet. So he gave us a special gift in Hebrews 11 - a reminder of lots of people who had **faith** and believed what God said, and what special things God did in their lives. *Why might that be helpful for us?* (Here perhaps older children could discuss importance of testimony and how it encourages us)

Faith's hall of fame (part 1) To keep it simple, I've suggested focus on Noah, Abraham and Sarah but you may also want to mention Abel and Enoch.

Show https://youtu.be/OlgXVihj_S8?feature=shared (saddleback kids hall of faith animation) but only up to Isaac/Jacob

Noah - *What did he believe that he couldn't see? Why did he believe? Did it happen?*

Abraham - God told him to pack up and go. (Same questions above!)

Sarah - God told her she would have a son. (Same questions above). Why was this so hard to believe? What else did he promise through this son?

Finish by unpacking verse 1 together - *what does 'confidence' and 'assurance' mean?* (Demonstrate throwing a ball up in the air - I was confident/certain it would come down) Our hope isn't 'flimsy' or wishful - we **know** that God will keep his promises, just like these people did. And because they had **faith**, and they believed what God said, it enabled them to be very **brave!**

(Older children) Why is all this **encouraging** for us? Recap importance of testimony

Game Ideas

Musical chairs/bumps (children have faith in chairs/gravity!)

(Similar to last week) children in pairs, one is blind folded and must be led by their partner (demonstrating faith in our partner when we cannot see)

Blowing bubbles (we can't see the wind/air but we know it's there moving/creating bubbles)
Quiz on bible characters that appear in the hall of fame (what do children know already?)

Craft Ideas

Chn could begin to create their own 'faith hall of fame' to be added to next week(s) Each character could be drawn in a picture frame (see below)

Chn could create a little booklet/page of Faith's hall of fame using the empty picture frame templates attached.

(There is also a great faith hall of fame 'spinner' craft online but it's not free.)

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Hall-of-Faith-Spinner-Craft-Hebrews-11-9345630?epik=dj0yJnU9RVdKaG00Z0RnOXBQUXdrMkRncDJlSIEzUkhfZzNvSmQmcD0wJm49QVRaS0gzUm5pchXdnNoU0xtUDJWdyZ0PUFBQUFBR2VPenBn>



