

Holding Fast by Faith

Materials I Need:

Legend:



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade



= Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:

“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” Hebrews 11:1 (NIV)



Hook:





What Would You Do? (Discussion).   Teacher will need:

one empty box of cereal filled with popcorn or something other than cereal (can be non-edible also). Reseal box to look new.
a large bowl

Have the class gather together in front of the whiteboard. Begin by talking about people and things we trust in our world (such as firemen, policemen, teachers, or products we buy). Write some of these people and things on the whiteboard. Ask the students to tell you more things we trust to fill the whiteboard with ideas. Bring out the box of cereal and ask the students if they would like to try it. Have one of the students come up and open the box and pour the contents into the bowl. When the students realize that there is no cereal in the box, explain to them that we tend to trust things we can't see in our world. Explain that we all are only human and make mistakes and we are let down. Who never makes mistakes? God is truly the only one that we can trust to not make mistakes. Erase a spot in the middle of the whiteboard and write God in large letters. Finish by discussing how we can trust God like Noah, Abraham and Job did. Even though Noah could not see God and it had not started raining, he built the ark anyway. The writer of Hebrews explains that even through difficult times we can trust and have faith in the Lord.



A Promise to Believe (Illustration/Discussion).   You will need a special surprise for each student. It could be a special snack, a small prize or party favor, or someone to make balloon animals. Don't leave any evidence of this upcoming event in plain sight. Promise the students that after the Bible Adventure there will be a special snack or surprise. (You can be specific. This is a promise). Then leave the room. Have another teacher challenge the 'faith' of the students. Have him ask if they really believe that they will receive anything special. Challenge them to look for something in the room that would prove you are prepared to give them what you promised. They don't see anything; how do they know you will keep your word?

After BOOK time ask the students if they can explain what 'faith' is. Read Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Ask the students if they believe they will receive what you promised before the Bible Adventure. Can they see any proof that you will keep your promise? No; so why, then, do they persist in being so sure they will receive what was promised. Is it because they trust that you would not lie to them? Read Hebrews 10:23, "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful." Why do we believe God's promises? Is it because we can see proof? No, it's because we know God is faithful and He's the one who made the promises. Explain to them that faith is nothing more than trusting God completely even though we can't see anything right now. Someday we will see God with our own eyes and we will see the things He has promised coming true. Now give the students the surprise you promised. Invite further discussion about faith.

- Abraham and Sarah (Skit).** 🦋, 🦋 This skit gives a humorous perspective on the tremendous faith of Abraham when he trusted God to give him a son in his old age. Supplies needed:
Abraham costume (including a long, white beard)
Sarah costume (including a pair of “old lady” glasses)
two canes

Narrator: Join with me as we travel back in time to the Old Testament. No, no! Don't stop at Ezekiel. Go all the way back to the book of Genesis. Now, I would like to introduce you to a couple who showed great faith in God for the seemingly impossible. [Enter Abraham and Sarah. They are both very old, bent over and walking with canes. Abraham has a long, white beard and Sarah has a pair of wire-rim glasses perched on the end of her nose. Sarah is VERY hard of hearing.]

Abraham: “Sarah, I have heard from the Lord and you are going to bear a child.”

Sarah: “Eh? What's that? You say you are bored and my clothes are looking wild?”

Abraham: “No, no dear wife. I said [he speaks louder] I have heard from the Lord and you are going to bear a child!”

Sarah: “Oh, deary me! Well, is this child going to be a daughter or a son?”

Abraham: “The Lord says the child will be a son.”

Sarah: “Eh? Speak up! You say I need to wear my hair in a bun?”

Abraham: “No, no dear! The child will be a SON and the Lord declares that from Him we will have more descendants than the grains of sand on the seashore.”

Sarah: “Well, well, well. This just knocks me straight off my rocker!”

Abraham: “Yes, dear. It certainly will require much faith to trust God to keep this most amazing promise to a couple of old folks like us!”

Abraham and Sarah exit. Sarah is muttering something about whether to decorate the new baby's tent in an NFL or hotrod theme. Abraham is muttering about wishing Sarah would remember to turn up her hearing aids.

Narrator: “Stay tuned to today's lesson and you will hear more about the faith of Abraham and how the Hebrews of the New Testament were encouraged to also “walk by faith.”

- Old Faithfuls (Quiz).** 🦋, 🦋 Test the students' knowledge of Old Testament characters! Have them fill out worksheets or write the list of names on the board and ask these questions as a classroom activity. Make it a competition by giving one worksheet to each small group and see which group can be the first one to fill in all names correctly, **HEB06.GF1**. *Answers in order: Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Rahab, Joshua, David, Gideon, and Samson.*

- Test Your Faith (Games).** 🦋 Introduce the students to today's lesson by starting with some simple trust games.

Have all of the students pair off. The pairs should number themselves one and two. Person one should stand behind person two, and prepare to catch them. Person two then puts his arms out to his sides (to make catching easier), close his eyes and fall backwards. *Tip: It is interesting to note that if you relax and fall backwards, you are a lot easier to catch than if you tense up and stop yourself halfway. It is also worth making sure that partners are of comparable weight!*

Put the students into teams of six. Five of these students form a circle around the sixth team member. The student in the center of the circle then puts his arms flat down by his sides, relaxes, and falls gently to one side. It is up to the people standing in the circle around him/her to prevent him/her from falling over by gently pushing him/her away. As you begin to trust each other more, let the student in the center fall slightly further each time. *Tip: It would be helpful and safer to have a leader in each group.*

Ask the following questions to form a discussion: Why did you fall back into someone's arms when you didn't know if they would move out of the way or catch you? What was the hardest part about trusting your teammates? *Relaxing and falling into the arms of your teammates would have showed complete faith in their ability and willingness to catch you.* How is this type of faith similar to the faith that believers have in Jesus? How do you demonstrate faith in Jesus? Have you ever put your faith in Jesus Christ?



God's Promises Booklet (Discussion/Activity). 🎨, 🦋 For this activity students will put together a booklet of promises they can refer to in time of need. They will need the following supplies:

- 1 copy of **HEB06.GF2 Pgs. 1-3**
- 3 pieces of assorted colors of construction paper cut in half to make 4.5 x 6 sheets
- scissors
- glue stick
- 1 piece of 13" ribbon, yarn, or cording to bind the booklet

Have the students follow the directions below to complete their booklets:

1. Take the three pieces of construction paper and place them together (one inside the other) like a book, and set this aside.
2. Then color the cover page of their booklet (*only the part that says HOPE with a stained glass background*) and the back page (*only the scroll area*).
3. Cut the **HEB06.GF2** pages in fourths on the lines. Be sure to point out the cover and the back pages to the booklet and have them glue these on first.
4. Finish gluing the remaining promise pages into the booklet (one per page). (**NOTE:** You can let them glue the pages in whatever order they want or you can choose to have them glue the pages in a particular order. It's your choice.)
5. Bind them with the ribbon, yarn or cording (tying a knot works well if you leave about an inch on either side).

Discuss with the students how in today's lesson Paul talks about persevering in the faith even when people persecute you (make fun of you) for believing in it. Paul was able to persevere because God is faithful to keep His promises. Show them in their booklets that these are a few of the promises found throughout the Bible that we too can claim when times get tough for us. Then go through and read the different promises.



Book:

Presentation Ideas –



Abraham and Sarah Leave Ur (Illustration/Coloring Page). 🎨, 🦋 Genesis 12:1-5, **HEB06.GF3.**



Sarah and Newborn Isaac (Illustration/Coloring Page). 🎨, 🦋 **HEB06.GF4.**



Abraham and Isaac on Mt. Moriah (Illustration/Coloring Page). 🎨, 🦋 Genesis 22, **HEB06.GF5.**



Warning No. 4. 🎨, 🦋 Hebrews 10:26-31, **HEB06.GF6.**



Warning No. 5. 🎨, 🦋 Hebrews 12:25-29, **HEB06.GF7.**



Super Glue (Object Lesson). 🎨, 🦋 Tell the students that today they will learn that if they want to "draw near" to God and "hold fast" to Him, they must start by believing His Word and obeying it. "Drawing near" and "holding fast" can be easily demonstrated with super glue. Take two heavy objects and stack them on top of one another. Now try to pull the top object off. It comes off easily because there is no faith represented (super glue). Now take the two objects and super glue them. After the glue dries, try to pull the top object off of the lower object. This represents a person holding fast to God because he has faith in God's Word.

Bible Adventure for 1st – 6th Grades –

Up to this point in our study of Hebrews, the author has demonstrated beyond any doubt that Jesus Christ is superior to anyone or anything in the entire universe. The question we will consider today is what difference does the superiority of Christ make in our lives. The answer is that because Jesus is so great and above all else, we can put our faith in Him. It is by faith that we become Christians and it is also by faith that we grow and become more and more like our Lord. But just what is faith? Hebrews 11:1 says that "...faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." This means that even though we cannot see God, we are absolutely certain that He is real. Faith is believing that what God says is true and what He promises will definitely come to pass.

The book of Hebrews gives us two reasons why faith is so important. First, it allows us to “draw near” to God. In other words, it enables us to come directly to God in prayer and worship. Because Jesus is our Great High Priest and sacrificed Himself on the cross to take the punishment for our sin, we no longer need a human high priest to represent us before the Lord. Every single person who has placed his faith in Jesus and what He did for us on the cross has been cleansed of sin. He is made a new person who can enter into the presence of God.

Secondly, faith is important because it allows us to “hold fast” to the hope that we will spend all eternity (that means forever and ever!) with our wonderful God. He made it possible for us to be saved and He is completely faithful. Even though difficult times will come and He will allow trials and tribulations to enter into our lives, there is no reason for us to ever “let go” of our Christian hope. Remember that the Jews to whom Hebrews was written were experiencing severe persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ. In today’s passage the author gave them a fourth warning to heed. In the mist of their struggles, it was essential that they not give up on their hope and turn back to Judaism. Anyone who understands the hope and truth of the Gospel of Christ and yet decides to reject it will face the terrifying judgment of God. However, the author of Hebrews was confident that this was not the case with these believers since they had demonstrated that their faith was the real thing by being willing to suffer on behalf of Christ. They had even willingly given up their possessions so that they might help their fellow believers who were in prison.

To encourage his readers to “hold fast” to Christ in times of trouble and not give up, the author proceeded to give example after example from the Old Testament of men and women who lived by faith and trusted God to keep His unseen promises. One such example was Abraham who obeyed God’s call to leave his home. Even though he didn’t know where he was going, he still trusted God for all of his needs. Later, God promised that he and his wife, Sarah, would have a son. From that son they would have many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and so on until they had more descendants than there was sand on the seashore. This seemed utterly impossible to Abraham and Sarah because they were very old and way beyond the age of having children. However, they trusted God to keep His promise and they had a son. While their son, Isaac, was still a child, God asked Abraham to offer him as a sacrifice. Abraham obeyed knowing full well that even if Isaac died, God was powerful enough to raise him up from the dead!

Abraham and other Old Testament saints persevered and endured through difficulties and hardships because they had faith in something they could not see—God’s faithful promises! They looked to the future salvation that would come through Jesus Christ, even though in their time He had not yet come to earth. They still believed in the Lord’s word, and as a result, they were able to “hold fast” to Christ and persevere by faith.

With all of these wonderful examples before them, the Hebrews were called to live the Christian life with endurance, like a cross-country runner finishes his race with endurance and does not quit. Each of them needed to fix their eyes on the Lord and not on their problems or struggles. Furthermore, they needed to get rid of any sin that would cause them to take their focus off of Christ.

For the Hebrews and for us, faith is the key to holding fast to the Lord. To help you understand, imagine that you are lost in a dry, barren, scorching desert and you are dying of thirst. You come across an old water pump that has a bucket of water sitting next to it. On the bucket is a sign that reads, “Use all the water in this bucket to prime the pump and then you will have all the water you need. Please leave the bucket full for the next person who needs water.” What would you do? It would take quite a bit of faith for someone to follow the instructions on the sign rather than drink all the water in the bucket. Who put up that sign? It could be a practical joke for all you know.

But what if the person who wrote that sign was your father who has been looking for you in this desert? What if the sign had your name on it? Would that make a difference in your faith to follow the instructions on the sign? In a similar way, the Lord has given us instructions with “our name on it” to follow in His precious Word. Even though we often do not know what will happen, by faith we hold fast to God’s promises and obey them. Like the Hebrews, you too, can follow the great example of the Old Testament saints.

Aim Questions

1. **Who wrote the book of Hebrews?** *(The author is unknown.)*
2. **Why was the book written?** *(It was written to confirm Jewish Christians in their faith and to caution them from falling away.)*
3. **What was going on with these Hebrew Christians?** *(They were being persecuted for their faith and were tempted to go back to Judaism.)*
4. **What is the theme of Hebrews?** *(The superiority of Christ.)*
5. **In today's passage, what is the key to "drawing near" and "holding fast" to God?** *(Faith)*
6. **How would you define faith?** *(Assurance of things hoped for; conviction of things not seen.)*
7. **What does faith believe in?** *(The promises of God's Word.)*





Look:



Memory Verse Worksheet (Worksheet).   Use this worksheet **HEB06.GF8 Pg. 1** to help the students memorize today's Bible verse. *Answer Key: HEB06.GF8 Pg. 2*



Excerpts from Heroes of the Faith (Reading).   You will need:
Copy of 'Jim Elliot' from the Teacher's Workroom.

Use these excerpts for a reading time for the students to examine how Christians in the past were willing to risk their lives for their love for Christ. You may want to ask the questions on the bottom of the reading sheet to stimulate discussion on today's Bible passage.



What is Faith? (Object Lesson/Discussion).   You will need:



examples of God's creation such as a piece of fruit, a flower, a leaf, a vegetable, a rock, an insect, etc. (If you need a snack idea, bring a tray of fruit, vegetables, etc. that students can eat).

Ask the students:


1. Who made these things? (God).
2. How do they know?
3. Did they see Him do it?
4. Have they ever seen God creating anything?

Read Hebrews 11:1 "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Is it unreasonable to believe in something we don't see? The verses that follow this one give examples of people who had faith, and the very first example is all of us who believe that God made everything: "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" (Hebrews 11:3). It doesn't take faith to believe that people make things out of other things because we can see their materials and watch them do it, but when we believe that in the beginning God created the universe out of nothing, that takes faith. We aren't, however, being foolish to believe this. We see God's workmanship in the things He has made and we see evidence of the things He has done every day. In this case, it's very sensible to have faith in a God we can't see.





Cloud of Witnesses (Worksheet).   Have the students fill in this crossword puzzle to get an overview of the examples of faith in Hebrews 11, **HEB06.GF9 Pg. 1**. *Answer Key: HEB06.GF9 Pg. 2*.



By Faith (Card Game).  Each student will need:
HEB06.GF10 Pgs. 1-2 copied onto cardstock
scissors
zip-top sandwich bag

This is a matching game (see rule card). Have each student make a set of cards to take home. Play with them in class if time allows.



Hidden Faith Message (Worksheet).   Have the students search for the keywords from today's lesson in this word search. After all of the words are found the letters that are not used reveal a hidden message, **HEB06.GF11 Pg. 1**. *Answer Key: HEB06.GF11 Pg. 2*.

- Faith in Action (Craft).** 🎨, 🦋 To make this folding picture wallet, each student will need:
HEB06.GF12 Pgs. 1 & 2
scissors
glue
coloring crayons or markers

Have the students follow the directions below to complete their crafts:

1. Cut on all double lines only.
2. Cut off the margins on three sides. Leave the right margin for gluing strips together.
3. Trim the wallet flap (top of first page) and cut out the label for the outside of the wallet.
4. Arrange first piece with wallet flap at left.
5. Lay all other pieces to the right—end to end (all remaining margins should be at the right with pictures right side up). To keep pictures in chronological order arrange all of page 1 top to bottom and then page 2 top to bottom.
6. Put glue on the margins and attach to the under side of the next piece.
7. After glue dries, beginning with the wallet fold flap to inside.
8. Fold the next line to the inside also.
9. Fold the next line out and alternate remaining lines in and out so pictures fanfold into wallet.
10. Glue "Faith in Action" label to the outside of the wallet.
11. Color.

- Aim Questions (Worksheet).** 🎨 Have the students answer the Aim Questions about today's Bible Adventure, **HEB06.GF13**.

- Passage Review Questions (Worksheet).** 🎨, 🦋 This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **HEB06.GF14 Pgs. 1 & 2**.

- Hebrews 11:1 (Memory Verse Song).** 🎨 Words and music for today's memory verse are available upon request from Children's Ministry.




Took:

- Heroes of Faith Puzzle (Craft).** 🎨, 🦋 Each student will need:
HEB06.GF15 Pgs 1 & 2 copied onto white cardstock
scissors
glue
coloring crayons or markers


Have the students cut out the puzzle pieces on page 2 and paste them to the outline of the puzzle on page 1. Then have them color the puzzle pieces if time allows. Explain to the students that the names on the puzzle pieces are names of the Old Testament men and women who put their faith in God during times of great persecution and trials.

- Living By Faith (Worksheet).** 🎨, 🦋 Have the students work on these questions in small groups and encourage discussion, **HEB06.GF16**. *Answers to first section: 1. near, heart; 2. hold, promised; 3. together, encourage; 4. earlier; 5. receive, come; 6. sure, see; 7. impossible; 8. hinders, run; 9. sons 10. Jesus, faith, cross.*

 **Kids of Courage I & II (Story/Discussion).** 🦋, 🦋 Read the stories aloud of Kinza and James to the class, **HEB06.GF17 Pgs. 1 & 2.** Explain to the students that these two kids of courage faced terrible suffering at the hands of Christ's enemies and remained faithful just like Paul and Timothy. Christian kids across the world are still persecuted because of their love for Jesus. Have the students answer the following questions on the whiteboard after they read the story of Kinza or James:

1. How does the story about James/Kinza change your view on faithfulness during times of suffering?
2. Did James/Kinza remain faithful to the Lord during their times of suffering?
3. How will you be praying for those Christians who are suffering in the world today?

These stories as well as more information on Christian persecutions can be found at www.persecution.com

 **Superiority of Christ Ribbon Incentive (Review).** 🦋, 🦋 Utilize this overview tool and incentive program to motivate the students and their parents to memorize the outline and key verses for the book of Hebrews. Devote time in your classroom to equip the students with a framework for assimilating and retaining the deep truths of Christ's superiority in the letter to the scattered Hebrew Christians. Review the incentive program at length with the students and encourage them to ask their parents to participate with them. Show the students both components of the program, the 'Jesus Is Superior' button and the ribbon loops that will be rewarded each week for completed memory work. Direct them to memorize the first verse in order to receive the first ribbon loop on the button. Hot glue each awarded ribbon loop to the button in the following order:

Lesson	Text	Theme ~ Memory Verse	Ribbon loops
HEB01	Hebrews 1-2	Christ Is Superior over the Angels ~ 1:4	White - represents angels
HEB02	Hebrews 3:1 - 4:13	Christ Is Superior over Moses ~ 4:11	Brown - represents Moses
HEB03	Hebrews 4:14 - 5:10	Christ's Superiority over the O.T. Priesthood ~ 4:15	Blue - represents the priest's garments
HEB04	Hebrews 5:11 - 7:28	The Danger of Falling Away ~ 6:11	Yellow - represents the danger of falling away (as in a warning sign)
HEB05	Hebrews 8:1 - 10:18	Christ Is Superior over the O.T. Covenant ~ 8:6	Red - represents the blood of Christ
HEB06	Hebrews 10:19 - 12:29	Holding Fast by Faith ~ 11:1	Purple - represents faith
HEB07	Hebrews 13	Superiority of Christ in the Christian Life ~ 13:15	Green - represents the Christian's walk



Old Faithfuls

Test your knowledge of Old Testament characters!

Fill in each blank with the correct name from the list below.

_____ By faith he offered God a better sacrifice than his brother Cain. He was murdered because God spoke well of him and his brother was angry.

_____ By faith he pleased God and was taken from this life so that he did not experience death.

_____ By faith he built an ark to save his family when God warned him about things he had never seen.

_____ By faith he obeyed God and left his home when he was promised a new homeland even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he offered his son as a sacrifice when God tested him even though God had promised many descendants though Isaac. He believed God could raise his son from the dead.

_____ By faith she had a child when she and her husband were very old. They believed God's promise to give them as many descendants as the stars in the sky or the sand on the seashore.

_____ By faith he blessed his sons, Jacob and Esau, with the promise God had made to his father, Abraham, that they would become a great nation.

_____ By faith he blessed each of Joseph's sons with God's promises when he was dying and worshipped the God who had saved his large family from starvation in Canaan and brought them to Egypt where he found his long lost son, Joseph.

_____ By faith he gave instruction that after he died, his bones were to be taken to the land God had promised when the Israelites were freed from Egypt, even though he was an important Egyptian official.

_____ By faith, when he was a baby, his parents hid him for three months. When he had grown up, he left his privileged life as the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter and led his people out of Egypt.

_____ By faith she was not killed when Jericho was defeated because she had protected the spies that Joshua sent.

_____ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after he led the people in a seven-day march around them.

_____ By faith he went into battle with a giant Philistine and killed him with a stone from his slingshot.

_____ By faith he tore down the altars of Baal and defeated the Midianites with 300 men carrying trumpets and torches.

_____ By faith this long-haired prophet pushed over the supports of Dagon's temple and killed many more enemies as he died than he had while he lived.

Abel

Abraham

David

Enoch

Gideon

Isaac

Jacob

Joseph

Joshua

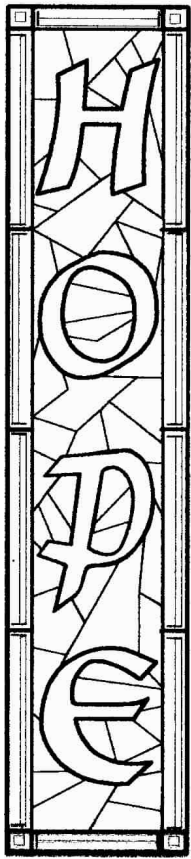
Moses

Noah

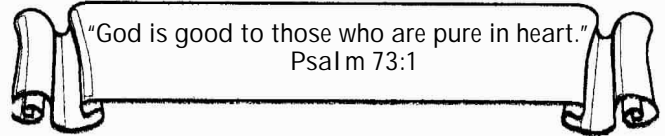
Rahab

Samson

Sarah



*My
Little
Book
Of
God's
Promises*



(The promises in this book are the author's translation of the verses cited from NIV, NIrV and NKJ.)

When I've done something wrong,
remember...

...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

So when I've done something wrong, don't
hang onto it. Go to God in prayer and
ask him to forgive me. He promises to
forgive every wrong thing I've done and to
wash me clean (make me pure in his
sight).

When I need to remember what God is
like, read this.

The LORD is tender and kind.

He is gracious.

He is slow to get angry.

He is full of love.

He won't keep bringing up things
against
me.

He won't stay angry with me forever.

He doesn't punish me for my sins as
much as I should be punished.

He doesn't pay me back for the evil
things I've done.

His love for those who have respect
for Him is as high as the heavens are
above the earth.

Psal m 103:8-11

When I feel scared or weak, I need to remember...

...Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; for the Lord my God, will go with me, He will never leave my side.

Deuteronomy 31:6

...Do not fear for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you.

Isaiah 41:10

When I'm feeling scared or weak in any situation, God promises to always help me and never leave me.

When I need rest or comfort, remember that Jesus says...

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

If I'm feeling tired or loaded down with life's trials, I can turn to Jesus and He'll provide the spiritual rest I need.

When I need something, or need an answer to something, all I have to do is...

...Ask and I will receive it,
Seek and I will find,
Knock and the door will be opened.

Matthew 7:7

Ask God for what I need (not want) and He promises to provide it. For example: If I need new shoes, I probably won't get Reebok's, but I will end up with shoes that meet my need.

When I need guidance and direction in what to do, I need to remember that...

...If any of you lacks wisdom, ask God for it, who gives to all generously and without fault, and it will be given to you.

James 1:5

If I ask God for guidance and direction, in true faith and without doubting, He will give it to me.

When being tempted, remember...

...God is faithful, and will not allow me to be tempted beyond what I can take, but with the temptation, He will also make the way of escape, that I may be able to bear it.

1 Corinthians 10:13

In any situation I face, make sure I look for the EXIT or escape. Sometimes it may be as simple as keeping my mouth shut.

When I feel like quitting, or giving up, remember...

...He who began a good work in me will be faithful to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:6

God is faithful to complete the good work He started in me. The work of transforming me to be more Christ-like, even if it takes until the time Jesus returns.

He won't quit or give up on me.

When I feel insecure or begin to doubt, I need to remember that...

...Those who belong to Christ Jesus are no longer condemned (not judged guilty).

Romans 8:1

Because I believe in Jesus and what He did on the cross, I am free forever from condemnation (being Judged guilty).

When I need God's grace and mercy, I just have to...

...Come boldly to God's throne of grace, that I may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

I can freely approach God with confidence. And I will receive mercy and grace to help me when I need it.

Abraham and Sarah Leaving Ur



Sarah and Newborn Isaac



Abraham and Isaac on Mt. Moriah



Warning No. 4

**If we deliberately keep on sinning
after we have received
the knowledge of the truth,**

NO  **sacrifice for sins is left...**



Warning No. 5

**See to it
that you
DO NOT REFUSE
HIM who speaks.**



(Hebrews 12:25-29)

Hebrews 11:1 Memory Verse

Unscramble each of the clue words from today's Bible lesson in Hebrews 11. (Hint: they are all names found in the "hall of faith.") Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number to discover today's memory verse.

BAHRAAM
27 32 21 19

SEMOS
40 7 20

LABE
8 31

HARBA
26 18

ONHEC
38 1 25 30 36

GENDOI
12 4 39 43 41 34

NOHA
28 2 37

RABKA
15

ASCAI
6 42

SONSAM
33 13 22 11

JACBO
17

DIADV
10 29

SAEU
9 14

MALUES
3 24

SOJPEH
35 16 23 5

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Hebrews 11:1 Memory Verse

Answer Key

Unscramble each of the clue words from today's Bible lesson in Hebrews 11. (Hint: they are all names found in the "hall of faith.") Copy the letters in the numbered cells to other cells with the same number to discover today's memory verse.

BAHRAAM A B R A H A M
 27 32 21 19

SEMOS M O S E S
 40 7 20

LABE A B E L
 8 31

HARBA R A H A B
 26 18

ONHEC E N O C H
 38 1 25 30 36

GENDOI G I D E O N
 12 4 39 43 41 34

NOHA N O A H
 28 2 37

RABKA B A R A K
 15

ASCAI I S A A C
 6 42

SONSAM S A M S O N
 33 13 22 11

JACBO J A C O B
 17

DIADV D A V I D
 10 29

SAEU E S A
 9 14

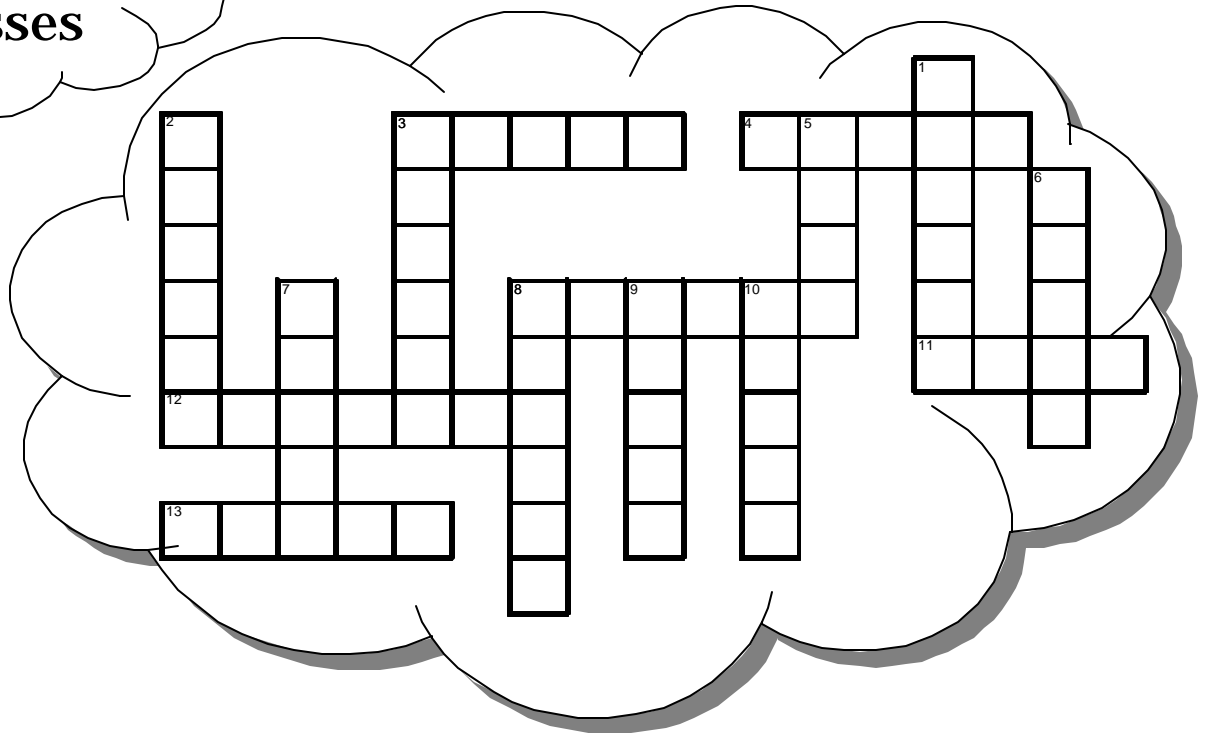
MALUES S A M U E L
 3 24

SOJPEH J O S E P H
 35 16 23 5

"NOW FAITH IS BEING SURE OF WHAT WE
 HOPE FOR AND CERTAIN OF WHAT WE DO
 NOT SEE."

Cloud of Witnesses

Fill in this crossword with the correct names.
Look in Hebrews chapter 11 for help.



[5 D] By faith he offered God a better sacrifice than his brother Cain (11:4).

the Israelites were freed from Egypt, even though he was an important Egyptian official (11:22).

[10 D] By faith he pleased God and was taken from this life so that he did not experience death (11:5).

[9 D] By faith he left his privileged life as the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter and led his people out of Egypt (11:23-29).

[11 A] By faith he built an ark to save his family when God warned him about things he had never seen (11:7).

[13 A] By faith she was not killed when Jericho was defeated because she had protected the spies that Joshua sent (11:31).

[12 A] By faith he obeyed God and left his home when he was promised a new homeland. By faith he offered his son as a sacrifice when God tested him. He believed God could raise his son from the dead (11:8-19).

[2 D] By faith the walls of Jericho fell after he led the people in a seven-day march around them (11:30).

[7 D] By faith she had a child when she and her husband were very old. They believed God's promise to give them many descendants (11:11,12).

[4 A] By faith he went into battle with a giant Philistine and killed him with a stone from his slingshot (11:32).

[6 D] By faith he blessed his sons, Jacob and Esau with the promise God had made to his father Abraham (11:20).

[1 D] By faith he tore down the altars of Baal and defeated the Midianites with 300 men carrying trumpets and torches (11:32).

[3 A] By faith he when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons and worshipped God who had saved his large family from starvation in Canaan (11:21).

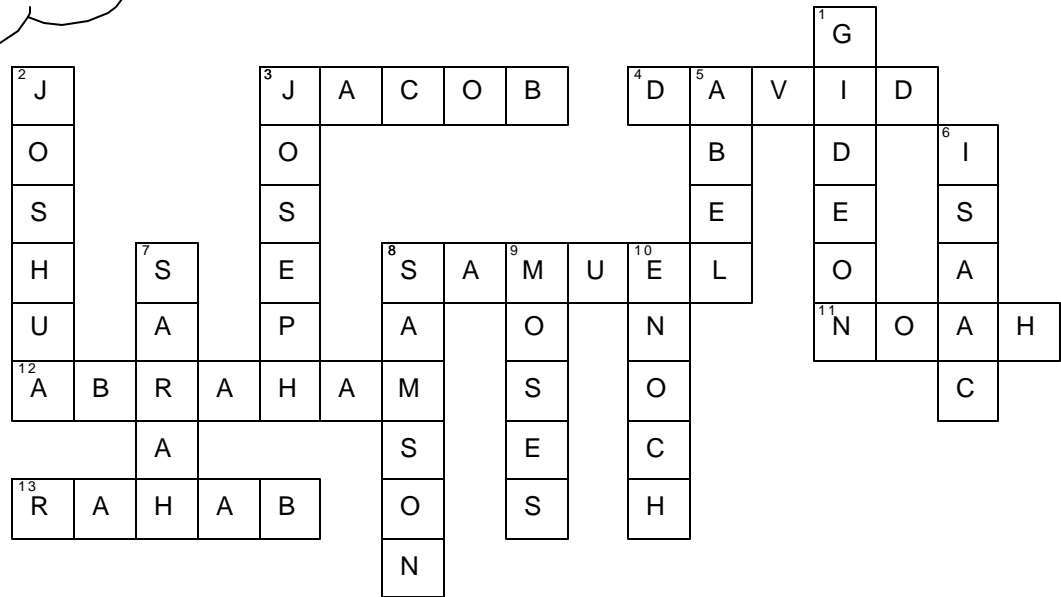
[8 D] By faith he pushed over the supports of Dagon's temple and killed many more enemies as he was dying than he had while he lived (11:32).

[3 D] By faith he gave instruction that after he died, his bones were to be taken to the land God had promised when

[8 A] By faith he served as priest, judge, and prophet. He anointed Israel's first two kings (11:32).

Cloud of Witnesses

ANSWER KEY



[5 D] By faith he offered God a better sacrifice than his brother Cain (11:4).

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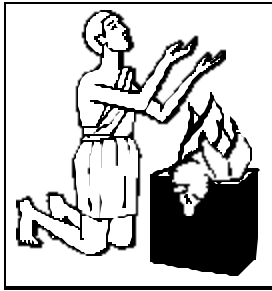
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By Faith

Find these examples of faith in Hebrews Chapter 11

Abel



Abraham



David



Enoch



Gideon



Isaac



Jacob



Joseph



Joshua



Moses



Noah



Rahab



Samson



Samuel

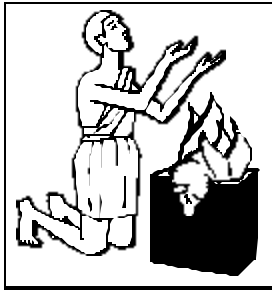


Sarah



Rules: This is a memory/matching game. Mix cards and lay them all face down. At each turn, a player may turn two cards over. If the two cards match, he may pick up the cards and turn over two more cards. When cards are gone, the player with the most cards wins.

Abel



Abraham



David



Enoch



Gideon



Isaac



Jacob



Joseph



Joshua



Moses



Noah



Rahab



Samson

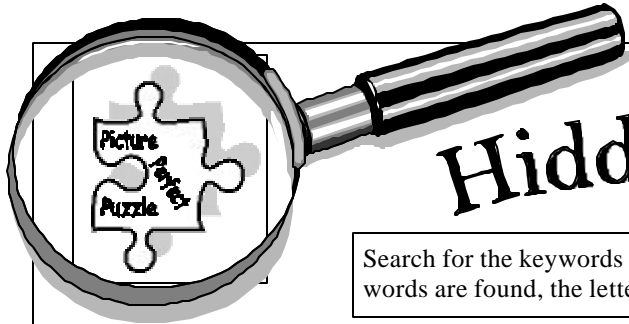


Samuel



Sarah



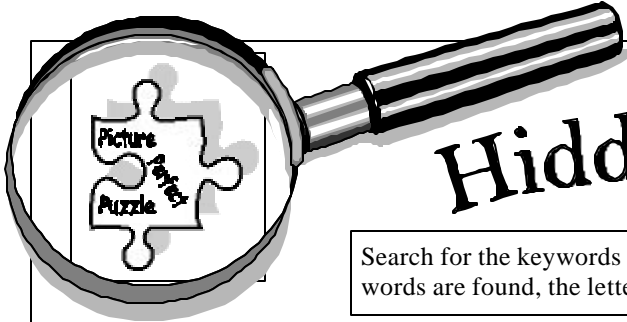


Hidden Faith Message

Search for the keywords from today's lesson in the word search below. After all of the words are found, the letters that are not used reveal a hidden message!

- ABRAHAM
- FAITH
- HEBREWS
- PERSECUTION
- PROMISES
- SUFFERING
- SUPERIORITY

N	N	O	S	W	F	A	I	T	H	I	S	B	E	H
M	O	I	N	U	G	F	S	U	R	E	O	F	E	W
A	H	I	A	T	P	W	A	E	H	O	P	B	E	S
H	F	O	T	R	A	E	N	I	D	C	R	E	R	U
A	T	A	I	U	N	O	R	F	T	E	W	H	A	F
R	T	W	E	D	C	O	N	I	W	H	O	T	S	F
B	E	E	B	K	B	E	K	S	O	F	G	Z	Q	E
A	R	P	B	K	Q	F	S	B	G	R	B	L	Z	R
X	F	W	D	D	I	E	P	R	V	M	I	I	N	I
B	Y	X	H	S	M	U	G	I	E	G	Z	T	K	N
Y	O	X	Q	N	C	P	V	K	N	P	M	S	Y	G
Z	B	H	L	X	L	Z	X	D	F	L	R	R	A	V
F	F	M	S	Y	A	B	B	B	O	F	Q	E	P	A
P	R	O	M	I	S	E	S	U	O	H	Q	C	J	A
M	T	E	S	I	T	Y	J	S	R	Z	V	O	K	S



Hidden Faith Message

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Answer Key

- ABRAHAM
- FAITH
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N	N	O	S	W	F	A	I	T	H	I	S	B	E	H
M	O	I	N	U	G	F	S	U	R	E	O	F	E	W
A	H	I	A	T	P	W	A	E	H	O	P	E	S	S
H	F	O	T	R	A	E	N	I	D	C	E	R	U	
A	T	A	I	U	N	O	P	F	T	E	W	H	A	F
R	T	W	E	D	C	O	N	I	W	N	O	T	S	F
B	E	E	B	K	B	E	K	S	O	F	G	Z	Q	E
A	R	P	B	K	Q	F	S	B	G	P	B	L	Z	R
X	F	W	D	D	I	E	P	P	V	M	I	I	N	I
B	Y	X	H	S	M	U	G	I	E	G	Z	T	K	N
Y	O	X	Q	N	C	P	V	K	N	A	M	S	X	Q
Z	B	H	L	X	L	Z	X	D	F	L	R	R	A	V
F	F	M	S	Y	A	B	B	B	O	F	Q	E	P	A
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M	T	E	S	I	T	Y	J	S	R	Z	V	O	K	S

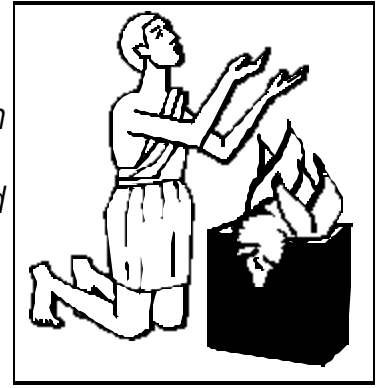
"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

Cut

Faith in Action

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."
Hebrews 11:1

By faith **Abel** offered God a better sacrifice than his brother Cain. He was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings.



glue here

By faith **Enoch** pleased God and was taken from this life so that he did not experience death.



By faith **Noah** built an ark to save his family when God warned him about things he had never seen.



glue here

By faith **Abraham** obeyed God and left his home when he was promised a new homeland even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he offered his son as a sacrifice when God tested him. He believed God could raise his son from the dead.



By faith **Sarah** had a child when she and her husband were very old. They believed God's promise to give them as many descendants as the stars in the sky or the sand on the seashore.



glue here

By faith **Isaac** blessed his sons, Jacob and Esau, with the promise God had made to his father, Abraham, that they would become a great nation.



By faith **Jacob** when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons and worshipped the God who had saved his large family from starvation in Canaan and brought them to Egypt where he found his long lost son, Joseph.

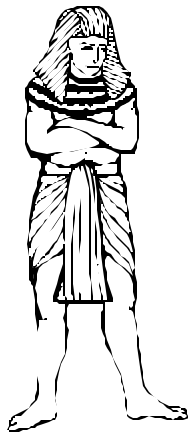


glue here

Cut

Cut

By faith **Joseph** gave instruction that after he died, his bones were to be taken to the land God had promised when the Israelites were freed from Egypt, even though he was an important Egyptian official.



By faith, when he was a baby, his parents hid him for three months.

When **Moses** had grown up, he left his privileged life as the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter and led his people out of Egypt.



By faith the walls of Jericho fell after **Joshua** led the people in a seven-day march around them.



By faith **Rahab** was not killed when Jericho was defeated because she had protected the spies that Joshua sent.



By faith **Gideon** tore down the altars of Baal and defeated the Midianites with 300 men carrying trumpets and torches.



By faith **Samson** pushed over the supports of Dagon's temple and killed many more enemies as he was dying than he had while he lived.



By faith **David** went into battle with a giant Philistine and killed him with a stone from his slingshot.



By faith **Samuel** served as priest, judge, and prophet. He anointed Israel's first two kings. He rebuked their sin and prayed for his people.



Aim Questions

Answer the following questions about today's Bible Adventure.

1. Who wrote the book of Hebrews?
2. Why was the book written?
3. What was going on with these Hebrew Christians?
4. What is the theme of Hebrews?
5. In today's passage, what is the key to "drawing near" and "holding fast" to God?
6. How would you define faith?
7. What does faith believe in?

How does a person become a Christian? By faith in Jesus Christ. And how does a person spiritually grow as a Christian? By faith in Jesus Christ. If you want to "draw near" to God and "hold fast" to Him, start by believing His Word and obeying it.



"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

Hebrews 11:1

Passage Review Questions

Hebrews 10:19-12:29

Where do we receive confidence from in order to draw near to God? (10:19-22)

What things should we be doing since Jesus has saved us from our sins? (10:23-25)

What does this passage say about those people who reject Jesus as the Messiah? (10:26-31)

What happened to the Hebrew Christians when they stood for their faith? (10:32-34)

Why does the Hebrew Christians need to persevere? (10:35-36)

Define faith. (11:1)

What do we know about creation by faith? (11:3)

Pick one of the people from the “Hall of Faith” (ch. 11) and describe the reason why they are listed here. (11:4-38)

What two groups of people does the writer of Hebrews refer to in this passage? (11:29-40)

Who is described as the author and perfecter of our faith? (12:2)

What four things should Christians do in view of the example that the “great cloud of witnesses” have given? (12:1-3)

What does this passage say about God’s love for His children? (12:4-11)

What does godly discipline produce in Christians? (12:11)

What does every person need in order to spend eternity with the Lord? (12:14)

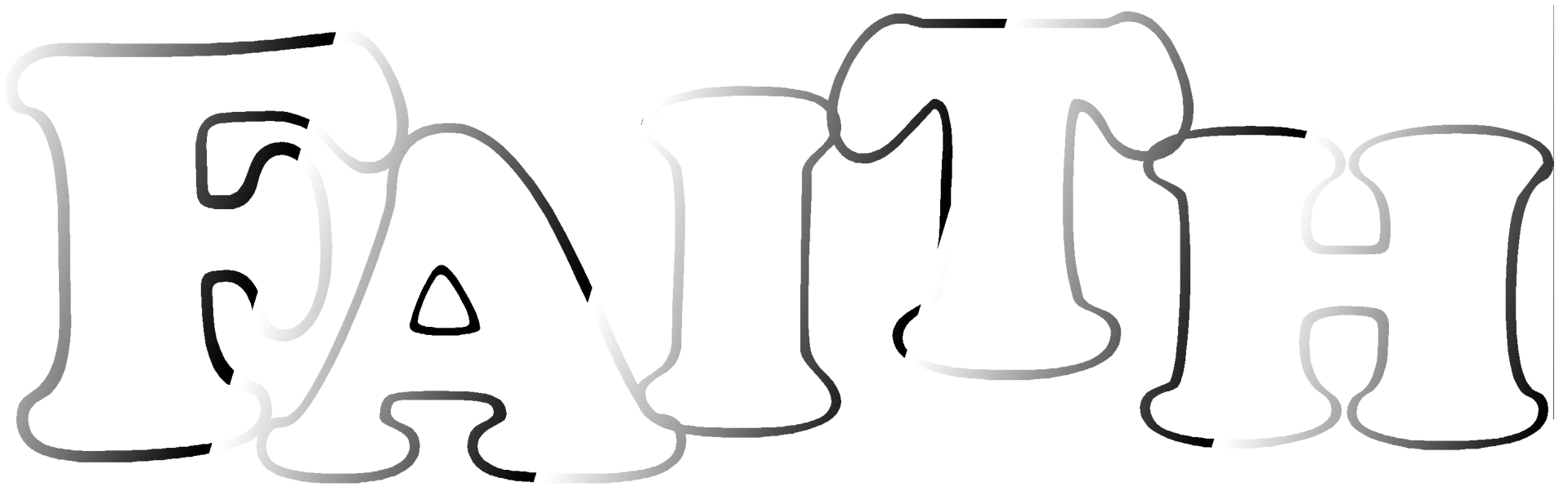
How should we treat all men? (12:14)

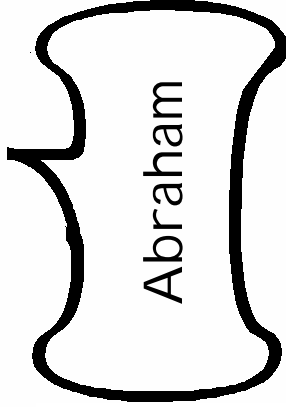
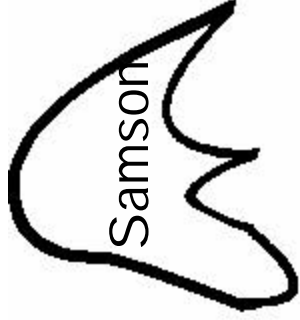
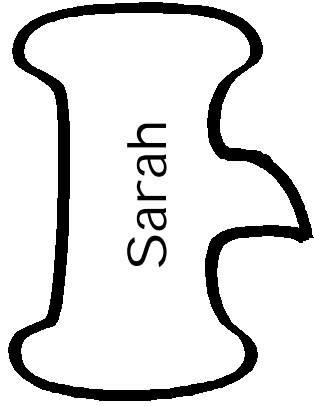
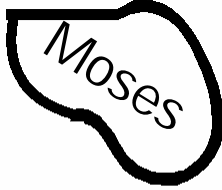
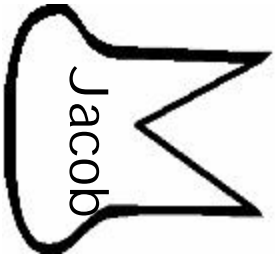
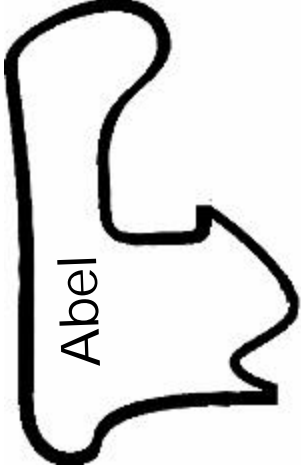
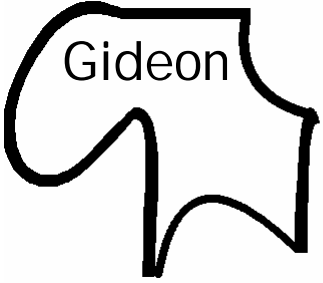
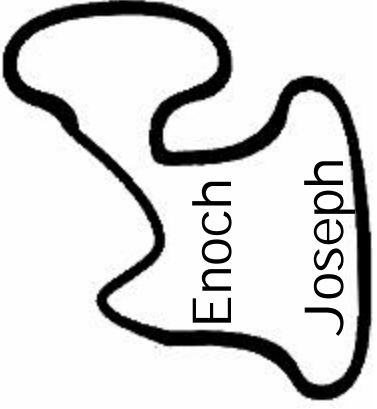
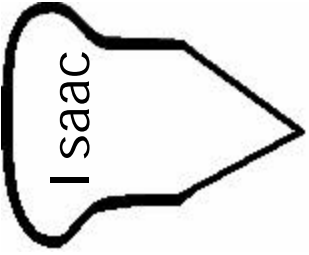
What place is being described with graphic language in this passage? (12:22-24)

What should a Christian’s response be to the work that God has done that allows entrance into Heaven? (12:28-29)

Heroes of Faith

Directions: Cut out the puzzle pieces on page 2 and paste them to the outline of the puzzle below. Color the pieces if you have time. The names on the puzzle pieces are the names of the Old Testament men and women who put their faith in God during times of great persecution and trials.





Living By Faith

Fill in the words missing from these scripture passages. They are listed for you. Look in your Bible for help.

1. "Let us draw _____ to God with a sincere _____ in full assurance of faith..." (Hebrews 10:22a)
2. "Let us _____ fast to the hope we profess, for he who _____ is faithful..." (Hebrews 10:23)
3. "Let us not give up meeting _____, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us _____ one another..." (Hebrews 10:25a)
4. "Remember those _____ days after you had received the light, when you stood your ground in a great contest in the face of suffering." (Hebrews 10:32a)
5. "You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will _____ what he has promised, for in just a very little while, He who is coming will _____ and will not delay..." (Hebrews 10:36,37)
6. "Now faith is being _____ of what we hope for and certain of what we do not _____ ..." (Hebrews 11:1)
7. "And without faith it is _____ to please God..." (Hebrews 11:6a)
8. "Let us throw off everything that _____ and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us _____ with perseverance the race marked out for us." (Hebrews 12:1)
9. "Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as _____. For what son is not disciplined by his father?" (Hebrews 12:7)
10. "Let us fix our eyes on _____, the author and perfecter of your _____, who for the joy set before Him endured the _____, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.." (Hebrews 12:2)

come
cross
earlier
encourage
faith
heart
hinders
hold
impossible
Jesus
near
promised
receive
run
see
sons
sure
together

Use the above question numbers indicated to answer the following questions:

#1,#2, and #3: From these three verses, what are some ways we can make our faith strong?

#4, #5: What should we remember?

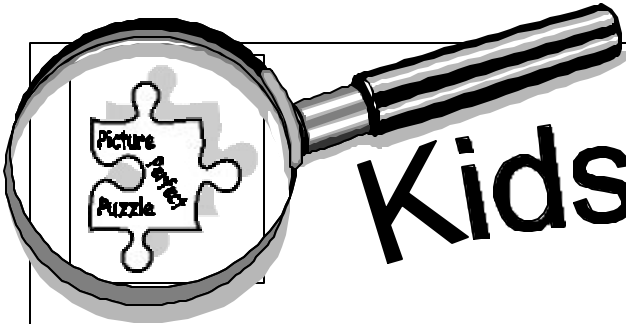
#6: What is faith?

#7: If we don't have faith, what is the other way we can please God?

#8: If we think of our own Christian life as a race, what things might hinder us from doing our best?

#9: Why is life hard sometimes?

#10: Who above all, should be our 'hero' of faith and why?



Kids of Courage

KINZA

For givenness in Pakistan

"I saw a man in black come shoot my daddy," said four-year-old Kinza. "My daddy looked at me as he fell down." "Where is your daddy now?" Kinza was asked. "He's in heaven with Jesus!" she answered with a half-smile.

Kinza's father, Pastor Immanuel, was the pastor at the church in Pakistan attacked by radical Muslims in October 2001. During the attack, a gunman came up to Pastor Immanuel, pointed a gun at him, and said, "Throw your Bible to the ground." The pastor said, "I will not." He clutched his Bible to his heart and turned his back on his attacker. The gunman shot him. Kinza was watching.

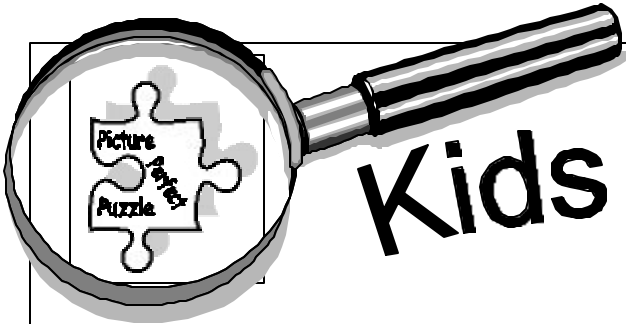
Kinza and her family miss their father and are sad that he is no longer with them. But when Kinza talks about the attacks, she does not say, "I hate Muslims," or anything like that. Kinza's mother talks to her children about what the Bible says about enemies. Many Muslims in the area did not approve of what the radical Muslims did when they attacked Kinza's church. Some came to Kinza's house to say they were sorry about her father's death. At first Kinza's older sisters did not want to answer the door. They were angry at the attackers. But their mother said, "Jesus told us to forgive our enemies."

The loving and forgiving attitude of Christians has been a good witness to others. Some Christian youth wanted revenge on the Muslims for the attack. But the Christian leaders reminded the youth that revenge is not the way of Jesus. The young people changed their minds.

In Pakistan, Muslim leaders don't often say good things about Christians but one Muslim leader said, "The Christians' behavior was better than the Muslims'." Some Muslims even came to Pastor Immanuel's funeral to show their respect.

Just a week after the attack, Kinza's mother said, "The Bible says it is because of Jesus' name that we will suffer. We are rejoicing. It is a privilege for us that my husband is a martyr, and he is with the Lord." Kinza's mother knows her family's suffering is not over. She has six children. Some of them may have to go to work to help support the family. But, like the apostles in Acts 5:41, she is rejoicing in her suffering.

Please pray for little Kinza and her family. Pray that their witness will lead many to find out more about Jesus and the salvation He offers. Pray for Kinza's mother to remain strong as she leads her family alone.



Kids of Courage II

JAMES LADULA Healing in the Sudan

James Ladula, age six, is a Christian boy who lives in southern Sudan. When he was a toddler, radical Muslim soldiers from the North came to the village where James lived with his parents, two brothers, and four sisters.

The soldiers lit a ring of fire around the village. It was the dry season, so the fire traveled inward very quickly. The villagers ran. James tried to run, but he fell down. Falling down saved his life. The fire passed over him, but his brothers died in the fire. James' right hand was badly burned. There were no doctors or nurses to help it heal correctly. He and his family walked through the bush (woods) for a week until they reached a refugee camp.

In January 2002, workers from *The Voice of the Martyrs* arranged for James to go to a hospital in southern Sudan where a skilled surgeon repaired James' hand in a three-and-a-half hour operation. Now James will be able to hold a pencil, work with his hands, and play games like other children. Thank God for giving us ways to help Him in His work of healing!

How does the story about James/Kinza change your view on faithfulness during times of suffering?

Did James/Kinza remain faithful to the Lord during their times of suffering?

How will you be praying for those Christians who are suffering in the world today?