



Date: _____

Series: Building Christian Character
Winter Year 2, Lesson 37

Being Full Of Faith

Primary Scripture: Matthew 8:5-13. Jesus heals a Roman army officer's servant.

Key Verse: Matthew 17:20, "If your faith is the size of a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need to be sure about God and his love for them. This confidence and absolute trust is known as faith. Kids need faith based not merely on their ability to believe, but faith based on seeing a full picture of who God is and how he really works in our lives.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Through Jesus' death and resurrection on our behalf, we can have a relationship with God as our own Father. In the name of Jesus, we have authority to be his sons and daughters.

Jesus in us: Just as Jesus had faith to trust the Father while he lived on earth, he gives us that same ability to trust God. He fills us with faith.

Jesus through us: Jesus can use our faith—especially the faith of kids—and how big we see God to work astounding things for the sake of God's kingdom.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Have kids close their eyes and cover them with their hands.

Can you see me? Am I still here even if you can't see me? How do you know I am right here? You just know? Because you can hear me?

Just because you cannot see me does not mean that I am not real and I am not right here. Can you see God? No. Is he here? Yes, he is. He says in the Bible, "Where two or three have come together in my name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20, GW) That means God is right here. He said so.

Help the children get a mental picture of how wonderful and big God is. Ask them to cup their hands together as though they are holding something precious, then close their eyes again. Now have them imagine the entire world in their hands.

This is like God. Right there in his hands is the entire earth – all of the land, oceans, and billions of people. Each one of us is in God's hands. God is so big that he holds all of that in his hands.

God is so wonderful that he knows each of our worries and he knows what makes us happy. He wants the very best for each one of us. He wants us to get to know him as our Heavenly Father and to trust him

like the good Father he is. God wants us to trust Jesus as his Son, who took away the punishment of our sin. He even wants to fill us up on the inside with his Holy Spirit so that he can be right here inside of us.

Do you see God as so big that he holds the whole world in his hands? Do you see that he is so close that he lives in your heart when you trust him?

The bigger you see God, the more faith you have in him. The closer you see God, the more faith you can have in him. That is what we are talking about today. Let's be full of faith by seeing the full size and the love of God.

When we praise him for being our God and when we sing songs about how wonderful he is, our faith grows. It is like we can see with the eyes of our heart that God is real and is here with us. Let's praise and worship him.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Prop needed: a toy flower or bird

Take the microphone (or an imaginary microphone) and interview the audience. Ask for examples of things that kids might have worried about this week. After a few samples have been given, ask the audience if worry is a sin.

God's Word says that we should not worry. If we worry we are showing that we do not have faith, or that we are not using our faith to trust in God.

Show toy flower or bird.

Jesus even said, "Look at the birds. They do not worry. Look at the flowers. They do not worry. God takes care of those things. Why wouldn't God take care of someone he really loves, like you and me?"

Let's confess to God any way that we have not trusted him or have not been full of faith.

Heavenly Father, we do believe that you are there. We have faith that you are a good God who wants to hear our prayers. We pray to you in the name of Jesus. Sometimes we forget to pray to you about things that bother us. Instead, we worry. Here are some things we can think of in our mind that we worried about this week. These are things that we did not pray about. (Pause.) Please forgive us when we forget to trust you in everything. Give us full faith so that we can see just how big and wonderful you are. We pray this in Jesus' name, who gave his life for us. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Throw a penny in the offering basket. Have everyone say, "Ooh!" Ask the audience to respond with sounds of amazement and wonder. They will think that this is silly.

The truth is Jesus commended the faith of a very poor woman who only had a penny. She gave it to the Lord and he said, "This woman's faith is great for she has given much, even if it was only a penny."

When we give our offerings today, it may not be a whole lot of money compared to what adults can give. Jesus can still say, "Wow! That's wonderful. You gave because you have faith in me. If you do not have very much money, giving a little bit can be just like giving a lot. Way to go! You have great faith!"

As kids bring their offerings forward, remind them what your current missions project is and update them on progress toward your goal.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

“Trust Walk”

In groups of five, have the kids hold hands and promise not to open their eyes. Give verbal instructions through different parts of the church or obstacles around the room. See if they can trust you and the person in front of them. Ask them to tell the truth afterwards to see if anyone ever did the whole thing without peeking one bit.

The learning point of this activity is obvious: We walk by faith, not by sight.

Bible Reading:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies needed: thin thread, a stool or chair, a mustard seed, video: “The Visual Bible: Matthew” (order from: <http://www.goccc.com/vibimadvd1of.html>), a block of wood with “Hall Pass” written on it, a small handheld cross

Part One

Being full of faith means a little bit of faith can go a long way if your faith is in God.

Present the following simple gospel illusion trick. In advance, tie a thin thread to the leg of a chair or stool that you will stand near. About three feet away place the other end of the thread in a slipknot loop big enough to step your foot into.

The trick will require you to drop something on the floor as you are standing in the center of the loop of thread. As you bend over to pick up the object, you will pull the thread up just enough to loop around your foot. This is best done when you call attention to someone else in the room so that the focal point is shifted away from yourself.

After you are prepared and your foot is looped in the thread, you will be able to move the chair slightly toward you by pulling your leg forward. If you use your hands to give

the appearance that you are drawing the chair to yourself, it will increase the dramatic effect. The following patter, or verbal presentation, will explain the teaching point.

Boys and girls, do you think it is powerful to believe in something? If you have faith, the Bible says you can do powerful things. It says that you can move a whole mountain. Do you believe that? How about this? Do you believe that I can move this chair if I just believed that I could? Let's see if it works. Chair, I want you to move toward me. I believe you can move. I believe you can move.

Boys and girls, did you see it move at all? I didn't either. Maybe you need to help me. Say it with me. I believe it can move. I believe it can move. Look at that! It moved. Say it again. Oh, it moved again! How did it do that? Did it move all by itself? Who thinks they know?

Well, let me tell you. It did not move all by itself. It did not move just because we were saying, "I believe." If you look down at my foot, there is a thread tied to the chair.

But, listen to what Jesus said in Matthew 17:20 (GW), *"I guarantee this truth: If your faith is the size of mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

Did Jesus say that you could move something bigger than a chair? Yes. He said you can move an entire mountain. How? If you had faith that was this big. Do you know how big a mustard seed is? I will show you one here on the end of my finger. See how small that seed is?

Does that mean that I could say, "If I just believed more and if I just had more faith, even a small amount like a mustard seed, I could make this chair move?" I think that we found out that the only way I could make this chair move would be if I were playing a trick and moving it with a hidden piece of thread.

What Jesus is saying is something different. Who is the only one that could move a mountain? It is God, isn't it? If we trust God, can he move a mountain? If we trusted God, could he make this chair move all by itself? Of course, he could. Would we want to pray to him, "Dear God, please move this chair all by itself," just to see the chair move? Would that make the chair move? No. God could move the chair, but he probably wouldn't. That might not be the best thing to do for us.

God does not want to do silly tricks like moving chairs or moving mountains. God wants to do really important things in our lives, like helping us become more like him. He wants to help other people get

to know him and trust him. He wants to do miracles of faith. If you want to have mountain-moving faith, it depends in whom you believe. God is the one who will move the mountain, but he will move just the right kind of mountain in your life that helps you be more like him.

Part Two

The scripture video comes from Matthew 8:5-13. Use the video, *"Visual Bible: Matthew."*

Part Three

Being full of faith means using the special privilege that God gives us to be one of his own. The following is a story that illustrates the principle of taking the authority that is ours as sons and daughters of the King. That authority is ours as we claim Jesus as our Savior and Lord.

One day, Greg was really thirsty at school. He thought to himself that, if he did not get a drink, surely he would pass out from thirst. It was a whole hour before school was out and he would be near a drinking fountain.

Greg thought it would be just fine if, while the class was doing their assignment quietly and the teacher was busy on the other side of the room, he could quickly sneak out and get a drink. He knew that he had better run to get there so he could get back to class right away.

Just as he was running down the hall to the drinking fountain, who should come around the corner but Mr. Bartel, the principal. "Now Greg," he said, "Why are you running in the hall?"

Greg stopped dead in his tracks. He could not answer Mr. Bartel. He said, "I... uh... drinking fountain... uh..." Mr. Bartel could tell something was wrong. He took Greg back to the classroom. His teacher was already waiting for him.

Greg was in trouble. He had a long talk with his teacher. His teacher reminded him that if he had asked permission, she would have given him a hall pass.

Hold up the block of wood with the word "hall pass" written on it.

If he had the hall pass, that meant that he had permission to be there, just as if his teacher was right there in the hall with him saying, "It's okay."

The next week, when everyone else was in their classes, Greg was walking down the halls all alone again. Mr. Bartel came around the corner again and stopped Greg. This time when Mr. Bartel asked Greg where he was going Greg smiled big. He held up the hall pass and Mr. Bartel knew that he had permission to be there. He had what is called authority to be in the hall because he had special permission given to him by the teacher. Greg smiled, got a drink, and returned to his classroom.

Boys and girls, did you know that God wants to give us a hall pass so that we can get what we need? It is not shaped in a block of wood like this, though. It is shaped like this.

Hold up a small handheld cross.

If we believe that Jesus gave his life for us and we trust him as our Savior, then we have the authority to go to God in prayer. It is kind of like going out into the hallway and getting whatever we need. We have permission to do so. Since we have the cross, we can go right to God and tell him about what we need. We have special authority to do so because we believe in Jesus. It is just as if we were holding this cross as a hall pass. Next time you are wondering if you can go to God and talk to him, just take your faith in Jesus, like this hall pass, and go right to God and tell him what you need.

Part Four

Being full of faith: We can expect God to work in wonderful ways.

Tell this story dramatically using whatever visual aids might enhance it.

This is a true story about what happened to an old man in St. Louis. He was walking down the street when a young man came running up to him to rob him. The young man pulled out the old man's wallet and shoved him to the ground. He expected the old man to be afraid and helpless. Instead, when the old man was pushed down, he spoke back to the robber. He said, "Wait a minute! You can't do that! I am a child of God. Now help me up."

The robber was surprised to hear such words. Maybe he was shocked that the man thought of himself as a child of God. Maybe he was reminded that what he was doing was wrong. Whatever the case, the robber helped the old man up. The old man thanked the robber and explained that God loved him. God did not want him to do that.

Surprisingly, the young robber looked down in an embarrassed way. He mumbled something to himself, held the wallet in his hand, and reached out to give the wallet back to the old man. Quickly the

would-be robber dashed off. The old man praised God. He was full of faith. He expected God to work in his life in wonderful ways, and God had done just that.

Do you expect God to work in wonderful ways in your life?



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Have kids share times in their lives when God worked in wonderful ways.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

The Power of the Cross:

- microphone
- toy flower or bird

Offering:

- penny

Bible Reading:

- thin thread
- stool or chair
- mustard seed
- *Visual Bible: Matthew*—order from: <http://www.goccc.com/vibimadvd1of.html>
- block of wood with “Hall Pass” written on it
- small handheld cross

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