



I'm a Believer

Bible Story: I'm a Believer (Faith Is . . .) • *Hebrews 11:1—12:3*

Bottom Line: You can know Jesus even though you've never seen Him.

Memory Verse: *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.*
Hebrews 11:1, (NIRV)

Life App: Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

Basic Truth: I can trust God no matter what.

Story: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

SFX: *Play high-energy music as kids enter.*

CG: *Theme Slide*

Host enters.

Opener

HOST: “Hey, everybody! What’s up? It’s so great to see you.

Hold up (or put on) the pair of glasses.

“Do you know someone who wears glasses? How about contact lenses? People wear lenses like these because it helps them FOCUS. That way they can see the things around them!

“This month we’re putting our FOCUS on something important. We’re taking a closer look at what it means to have faith!

CG: Faith Slide

“Faith is trusting in what you CAN’T see because of what you CAN see.

CG: Theme Slide

“It might sound strange to put your trust in something you can’t see. But it actually makes total sense—especially when it comes to our faith in God. We’ll get into that in just a minute. But first, I have a fun FOCUS game for us to play. It’s ‘FOCUS Corners’!

CG: “FOCUS Corners” Slide

“This game includes a few of the ways we can see things in the world around us. Obviously, we use our eyes to see things.

CG: Game image #1: Eyes

“Some of us might use glasses or contacts to make our vision nice and sharp.

“What about when we go to a 3-D movie? Is there something we might use to see it? *(Pause)* Yes! These super-cool, 3-D glasses!

CG: Game image #2: 3-D glasses

“What about when we’re trying to see stars that are really far away? Is there something special we might use to look at those? *(Pause for responses.)* Yep! A telescope lets us look at things that are really far away.

CG: Game image #3: Telescope

“Okay, last one. What if you’re outside on a nature walk and you see a caterpillar? You want to take a closer look. What could you use to do that? *(Pause for responses.)* Yes! You could use a magnifying glass.

CG: Game image #4: Magnifying glass

“We’ll use those four things to play a FOCUS-themed version of the game Four Corners. If you’re not familiar, I’ll tell you how to play. In each corner of the room, you’ll see a picture of those four items that can help us focus: eyes, 3-D glasses, a telescope, and a magnifying glass.

“In just a moment, you’ll go stand in one of the corners—whichever one you want. Then, one of the four images will show up on the screen. Whoever is in that particular corner, is out! If that happens to you, just head back to your seat, sit down, and cheer for the contestants who are still in the game. For those who are still standing, each round you can choose to stay where you are or pick a new corner.

“Let’s see how long you can stay in the game! If you’re ready, give me a thumbs-up. *(Pause for response.)* All right, pick a corner. This one’s a practice round.

CG: “FOCUS Corners” Slide *(each round, while the kids choose a corner)*

SFX: Fun music *(instrumental; play throughout the game)*

CG: Any of the four game images *(on Host’s cue)*

CG note: Try to choose one of the images randomly, without looking at which kids are in which corner.

Play multiple rounds of the game, eliminating contestants each time. (Be sure to encourage the kids when they’re out, to keep the tone light and fun.) If the game moves quickly, you can play it again. When you’re finished, send everyone back to their seats.

CG: Theme Slide

“That was fun! You all are really good at FOCUSing. One super-cool way that we can FOCUS on God is by singing and worshipping Him together. Let’s do that, now!”

Worship Leaders enter as Host exits.

Worship

as Worship Leaders exit.

VIDEO: One Big Story Intro

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

SETTING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Hi, everyone! We’re continuing God’s Big Story, which we find in the Bible. *(Hold up Bible.)*”

“The Bible is divided into two main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. One of the books in the New Testament is the book of Hebrews, which is actually a letter. The writer of Hebrews wanted to encourage followers of Jesus to stay strong, even when it seemed like everyone was against them.”

“There are some really cool verses in chapter 11 of Hebrews that explain what it means to have faith. Listen to this.”

Open the Bible to Hebrews 11:1-2 (NirV) and read.

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see. That is what the people of long ago were praised for.”

“Let me read that again.”

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see. That is what the people of long ago were praised for.”

“You see, faith is all about believing in the things you CAN’T see by starting with what you CAN see.”

“We can’t see God, but we CAN read the stories of people who came before us. Even though these people faced some really difficult times—even when they didn’t know how things would turn out—they still chose to follow God. They chose to trust His promise that He would one day send a Rescuer. The writer of Hebrews reminds us about some of those men and women in God’s story. Let me remind you of a few of them.”

ABRAHAM

STORYTELLER: “Let’s start with Abraham.

If you have a Bible timeline displayed in your room, walk over and point to the Abraham image.

“As you may remember, Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were getting old.

Get the cane and use it to walk around the stage like an older person.

“They didn’t have any kids, and it seemed like they never would. But God gave Abraham a really big promise. God told Abraham to leave his family and go to the place God would show him. God told him that one day, all of the nations on Earth would be blessed because of him. You see, God was planning to send His Rescuer as one of Abraham’s great, great, great, great—and a lot more greats—grandkids!

Hold your hand over your eyes like you’re looking in the distance.

“Abraham had God’s promise, but he couldn’t SEE the One God would send. Still, he obeyed what God told him to do. He chose FAITH in God.

Put the cane back in the prop box.

“And other people in his family, for years to come, chose to put their faith in God, too—Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.”

If you have a timeline, point to the Jacob and Joseph images.

MOSES AND DAVID

STORYTELLER: “Another person who chose to put his faith in God was Moses.

If you have a timeline, point to one of the Moses images.

"Moses was minding his own business, watching sheep.

Pick up the staff.

"Then God used a burning bush to get Moses's attention and give him an important mission. God wanted Moses to lead His people out of slavery in Egypt. At first, Moses wasn't sure he was the right person for the job. But he trusted God. He went to face the king of Egypt, Pharaoh, and he demanded that Pharaoh let God's people go. And just as God had said, Moses led the Israelites to freedom.

Raise the staff in the air then put it back in the box.

"When you check out the book of Hebrews, you find a huge list of people who followed God by faith. In fact, there are so many examples that the writer of the letter stops trying to list them!

"Another great example is David, Israel's greatest king.

If you have a timeline, point to the David image.

Get the crown and put it on your head.

"David knew that God had chosen him to be king, but he had to wait for it to happen. He spent YEARS running away from King Saul, who wanted to kill him! Even in such a scary and confusing time, David chose to trust God and have faith that God would keep His promise. Eventually God did, and David became a great king.

Put the crown back in the box. Pick up the Bible.

“When we read the Bible today, we can look back and see how God’s Big Story took shape. But none of the people at the time could see with their eyes how God was going to save His people. Instead, they had to have faith that God had a bigger plan. They saw how God had been working in THEIR lives and in the lives of people throughout history. That’s why they believed that God keeps His promises.”

JESUS, THE RESCUER

STORYTELLER: “None of the people in the Old Testament got to see God’s promise come true here on Earth. But they had faith that someday, God would send a Rescuer. And at just the right moment, God DID come through. He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior.

If you have a timeline, point to one of the Jesus images.

“Jesus showed the world, and all of us, what God is like. He taught us that the most important thing we can do is love God and love others.

Get the cross and hold it up.

“Jesus was killed, and His friends were afraid the Story was finished . . . until God raised Jesus back to life!

“Now WE have an amazing promise from God. If we believe and put our faith in Jesus, we have the promise of eternal life with Him. Sure, we can’t see Jesus with our eyes. But we can put our trust in Him and believe that He is our Savior. We know that Jesus died on the cross for us, just like He did for the people who lived with Him back then.

Put the cross back in the box.

“You may remember some of the very first followers of Jesus—people like Peter, John, and others.

If you have a timeline, point to the image of Peter and John.

“They saw Jesus teach and heal people, with their very own eyes. They saw Jesus after God raised Him to life! And so, after Jesus returned to heaven, they continued to follow Him. They were so excited to tell others about what they had seen and heard!”

WRAPPING UP THE STORY

STORYTELLER: “Because of what the new Christians in the early church had seen, they believed in what they COULDN’T see . . . yet. They believed that at the end of the story, God would make everything right. They told others about Jesus, and eventually, you and I heard about Jesus, too. Because they had faith, each of us can choose faith, too.

CG: Faith Slide

“Remember, **faith is trusting in what you can’t see because of what you can see.**

If you have a timeline, reference the overall story here.

“We can see how so many people in the Bible put their faith in God. They believed that God would send a Rescuer—and God did when He sent Jesus. That’s why we can be sure of what we believe today. We can get to know Jesus and discover what a difference He can make in our lives.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “You can know Jesus even though you’ve never seen Him.

“Let’s pray.”

CG: Blank Bottom Line Slide

Pray

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for all of the stories we can read in the Bible about people who put their faith in You. They were waiting for a Rescuer, and Your promise came true when You sent Jesus to be our Savior. Thank You for helping us remember those who came before us, and how they had faith in You. Please help us to have the same kind of faith that they did. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name, amen.”

Host enters as Storyteller exits.

Closer

HOST: “It’s true . . .

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “You can know Jesus even though you’ve never seen Him.

“When you know how He has worked in the lives of others, you can see how He can work in your life, too. That’s why it’s so important for us to look at all of the people who are a part of God’s Big Story.

CG: Timeline

“People like Abraham, Moses, David, and so many others trusted God since the very beginning, even though they couldn’t see the ending. They showed us what it means to have faith.

CG: Today’s Story Image

Optional: Place Today’s Story Image on your timeline.

“After all, faith is being sure of what we DON’T see.

CG: Blank Memory Verse Slide

“That’s what it says in Hebrews 11:1, which is our memory verse for this month. Let’s see if we can learn it, okay? Here it is:

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see. (Hebrews 11:1, NIV)”

“So, how can you and I be sure of what we believe? How can you get to know Jesus more and more, even though you can’t see Him? Well, you can start by talking to someone who knows Jesus, like maybe someone in your family, or your Small Group Leader, or a friend here at church. You can also read the Bible and discover all of the stories of people who came before you and chose to follow Jesus.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “You can know Jesus even though you’ve never seen Him.

“You can head to Small Group now and talk some more about what it means to have faith. I’ll see you later!”

Dismiss kids to their small groups.