

To the Teacher

The information below is to help you in teaching the lesson. DO NOT read this page to the students. Instead, teach the information in your own words. Be sure to finish the student's lesson as well. The Scripture references in parentheses are for additional study, to round out the information given in the lesson. Become familiar with these passages as well, to provide additional Scriptures to your students.

Lesson 20 – Living by Faith (Teacher's Lesson)

Opening: Answer the opening question.

Study Notes:

Hebrews 11

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

- | | | |
|---------------|-------|--|
| 1. Abel | _____ | A. Left Egypt |
| 2. Enoch | _____ | B. Offered God a righteous sacrifice |
| 3. Noah | _____ | C. Marched around the walls of Jericho |
| 4. Abraham | _____ | D. Pleas ed God by seeking Him |
| 5. Joseph | _____ | E. Gave instructions about the burial of his bones |
| 6. Moses | _____ | F. Welcomed the spies in peace |
| 7. Israelites | _____ | G. Built an ark to save his family |
| 8. Rahab | _____ | H. Offered Isaac as a sacrifice |

“Good” Results: Examples – conquered kingdoms, administered justice, gained what was promised, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, escaped the sword, weakness was turned to strength, became powerful in battle, y routed foreign armies, received dead raised to life again.

“Bad” Results: Examples – tortured, refused to be released, faced jeers and flogging, chained, imprisoned, stoned, sawed in two, killed by the sword, destitute, persecuted, mistreated.

2 Corinthians 5:7

For we live by faith, not by sight.

Paul's comments in this passage are in opposition with the understanding of the world. Paul says that death is better than life. He is not belittling the gift of life that God gives each one of us, or the blessing that we have in passing time here on earth. What he is saying is that eternity with the Lord is much better that any temporary blessing that we receive here and for him it would be better to leave this world only because it means that it is time to be with Jesus. This perspective requires the greatest confidence in God that He will do what He say.

Application: Help students identify their struggles in the area of faith. Explain that the challenges to our faith are what help strengthen it. It can also be helpful to specify some areas in which people typically wrestle in their faith. To identify the areas in which we are weak in the faith is the first step in receiving God's strength. Some examples are:

- Finances (Do I trust God with my money? Is it really my money?)
- Life after death (Can I face the eventuality of my death without fear?)
- Personal and Family Relationships (Do I trust God to arrange my family priorities?)
- Work (Do I trust God to provide for my necessities? Am I allowing Him to arrange my work priorities?)
- Personal Ministry (Am I willing to serve God in whatever capacity He asks me to, without the need for recognition or praise from anyone except Him?)

Lesson 20 – Living by Faith

Time to Believe

Would you be considered a trusted person? Why or why not?

A famous chapter about faith is in Hebrews 11. Read the verses and answer the questions below.

Verse 1 – Fill in the blanks: Now faith is _____ in what we hope for and _____ about what we do not see.

Read verses 4-31 y connect the person on the left with the action that demonstrated their faith.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. Abel | A. Left Egypt |
| 2. Enoch | B. Offered God a righteous sacrifice |
| 3. Noah | C. Marched around the walls of Jericho |
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In the list of actions above, circle the word in each phrase that indicates an action taken as a demonstration of faith.

Now read Hebrews 11:32-38. Note that the result of a faithful life is not always the same in human terms. In the two columns below, list the “good” and “bad” results of a faithful life.

“Good” Results

“Bad” Results



In each of these cases, the person was more concerned with doing God’s will than their own personal circumstances. Henry Blackaby puts it this way, “External appearances of success do not always indicate the presence of faith, and what externally seems to be failure does not always indicate lack of faith. A servant is one who does what the teacher tells him, whatever the result.” (Blackaby, Henry T. Experiencing God. Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994.)

Our memory verse for this lesson is 2 Corinthians 5:7. Read this verse and fill in the blanks:

For we live by _____, not by _____.

What does this verse mean to you?

To live by faith means living in the reality that God's power is real and active in your life. It means having the courage to accept God's will for you, no matter what He calls you to do. It means understanding that what He calls you to do, you will not be able to do without Him. Sometimes the things He calls us to do don't humanly make sense. Here is when we should learn to completely trust in Him (God).

Testing Our Faith

How would you describe your faith right now? Answer the following questions below:

1. What are you or your church attempting right now that only God can do?
2. Do you pray because you want to, because you need to, or because you know that you ought to pray?
3. During the past months, have you failed to respond to God's invitation to do something because you felt incapable or unworthy?

No matter what your answers to the previous questions, God desires a closer relationship with you. He wants you to completely. Take some time right now to dedicate yourself to sincere obedience and to His will.

Scripture to Memorize:

For we live by faith, not by sight.
2 Corinthians 5:7