

LESSON 7

JESUS IS LORD OVER DISEASES

OBJECTIVES

1. To learn that Jesus is the ultimate healer and helper.
2. To trust and believe in the Lord with all our heart.
3. To be reminded that God rewards those who have faith in Him.

MEMORY VERSE

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

(Hebrews 11:1)

PRAYER

1. Thank God for giving us a healthy body and a sound mind to learn more about God's words.
2. Know that Jesus is almighty, and that He is Lord over sicknesses; pray for those who are in need of God's healing and mercy.
3. Ask God to help us have more faith in our everyday living so that we can trust in Him wholeheartedly.



Overview

1. **Jesus heals a paralytic, a man who was let down through a roof by his unfailing friends (Mt 9:1-8; Mk 2:1-12)**
2. **Jesus heals a centurion's servant based on his master's great faith (Mt 8:5-13; Lk 7:1-10)**
3. **Jesus heals a bleeding woman (Mt 9:18-22; Lk 8:43-48)**
4. **Jesus heals a blind man in Bethsaida (Mk 8:22-26)**
5. **Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs**—Salvation is given by grace
6. **Life Application**
 - Build Our Faith in God: We must cultivate our faith daily.
 - A Message of Hope: A testimony about turning to God for help.
7. **Activity**—Pictionary; Faith Painting



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Jesus' Healing

In the Bible, healing is a continuous theme running throughout human history from Genesis to Revelation. However, miraculous healings were especially prevalent during Jesus' time. They were recorded in detail to show Jesus' compassion and power toward those who were in need. Jesus' miracles of healing also helped establish His absolute credibility as the one sent from God. It built faith into those who saw His healings firsthand and into all who read about them years later. Healing was also utilized to express Christ's ultimate power over life and death and to help preach the gospel in a powerful way.

The Paralytic

This incident took place in a town called Capernaum, which was Jesus' hometown during His adult years. Archeologists have noted that the city of Capernaum developed about two hundred years before Jesus' arrival. At the time when this miracle occurred, most houses were well constructed with dress stones, plastered walls, and hardened mud roofs. The story tells us that the paralytic had four caring friends who would do anything to bring their friend to Christ. They didn't mind the hard work of uncovering the roof of the house where Jesus was visiting in order to bring their friend to Jesus for healing. It was their persistence, love for a friend, and faith in the Lord that helped their friend get healed.

The Centurion

The title of "centurion" was used in the Roman army to designate an officer who was in charge of around one hundred men. A centurion was held in high esteem for his experience, skills, and trustworthiness. The

centurion that was mentioned in Luke 7:1-10 was one who loved the Jewish people and had even built a synagogue for them to worship God. The Jews also had affection for the centurion, as they testified to Jesus on his behalf and told Jesus that he deserved to receive the healing he requested for his servant.

The Bleeding Woman

This bleeding woman lived in the Galilee region of Israel. Her age was unknown, but she was probably old enough to be a wife. She was a desperate woman who suffered from a chronic bleeding condition, which made her physically weak and emotionally weary. She was considered an “unclean” person who was not welcomed anywhere. The Bible recorded that she had spent all she had but could not find a cure. She was destitute. However, she believed Jesus could and would help her. She used all her might to reach out to Him, and in the end, it was her faith that saved her.

The Blind Man in Bethsaida

Mark 8:22-26 gives the only biblical record of the healing of the blind man of Bethsaida. It was also the only miracle in the life of Christ that was not immediate, for it took two attempts in order to bring the man perfect sight. This blind man’s healing was not for the multitudes but for the disciples. Jesus demonstrated how the initial healing of salvation does not always mean perfect vision. This comes from steady spiritual growth and communication with God, which will give God the opportunity to touch your life more.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Faith can be described as being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real, even if we cannot see it. When children are younger, it seems to be easier for them to believe in biblical teachings with a simple mind. However, as our precious ones advance in age, it becomes a challenge to persuade them to accept the invisible and believe the unexplainable.

Here are some tips to help our students and us to grow in faith continually:

1. **Firsthand experience.** Help students recall any personal experiences of Jesus’ healing in their family. When was the last time someone got a stomachache, and through prayers, received healing? Encourage students to count their blessings as they vividly recall God’s amazing grace in their family.
2. **Teachable moments.** Oftentimes, when children face situations filled with emotions, such as fear, sadness, anger, or wonder, they are ready to grow in faith. Help them see God’s presence in all circumstances, and take advantage of these teachable moments to show them Christ’s footsteps in the sand.
3. **Daily prayers.** Prayer does wonders! Pray for and with your students constantly to ask God to change our unbelief and to soften our hardened hearts. The Lord listens to our prayers. We just need to keep at it every day.



Opener

5 Minutes

[Place a blank sheet of paper and a pencil on each student’s desk.]

Students, close your eyes for thirty seconds, and form an image of a superhero in your head. When that image is clear, raise your hand. As I tap your hand, open your eyes, and without speaking a word to your neighbor, quickly draw that image on your paper. [Walk around the room to tap on students’ hands once they are raised. Encourage them to draw the image with simple sketch. Allow another two to three minutes for them to draw before asking more questions.]

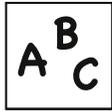
Now, who can tell me what a superhero is like and what they do? [Hear a few responses from them.] That’s right! They usually have superpowers. They often show up when people are in need of help.

Would anyone like to share your drawing with the class and tell us what is special about your superhero? [Hear from two or three students. Write the words “**Jesus vs. Superheroes**” on the board, and encourage students to make comparisons.]

So, how is our Lord Jesus the same as the superheroes that you had in mind? Jesus definitely has superpowers. He also

helps those who are in need. How is Jesus different from the superheroes we know? [Encourage students' responses.]

This is what we are going to learn in our lesson today. Keep this question in mind as we explore Jesus' amazing healings. We will come back to it at the end of the lesson, and you should all be able to answer this question at that time.



Vocabulary

faith: belief that is not based on proof

paralytic: someone who cannot move or use a part of their body

centurion: a commander in charge of one hundred soldiers

salvation: deliverance from sin through Jesus Christ



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Please print out the Bible Discovery worksheet before class, and bring in a few dictionaries for students to use to complete the first half of the worksheet. The students will be filling out the entire worksheet as the lesson goes on. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version as reference.

Define "Faith"

In the several stories we are going to learn today, a key word will keep appearing again and again, and it is the word "faith." [Write "Faith" on the board.] Now, think about this word and turn to your neighbor. Then share with your neighbor your own definition of "faith," and write it down on the worksheet. [Allow a few minutes for students to discuss and write down their own definition of "faith" before passing out the dictionaries.]

Now, look up the word "faith" in the dictionary and see what the definition says; write it down on your worksheet. My dictionary tells us that having "faith" means believing in something or trusting in someone without seeing any proof.

In fact, faith is often one of the key factors that prompts Jesus' healing. Lord Jesus performed many miracles to heal the sick because of their faith, or to build up other people's faith. Finally, how does the Bible define "faith"? Please look up Hebrews 11:1 and write down the verse on your sheet. How is your own definition of faith different from the dictionary and the Bible's definition of faith?

With this in mind, let's move on to learn more about the wonderful miracles that Jesus performed to teach us about the true meaning of "faith."

Jesus Heals a Paralytic (Mk 2:1-12)

This story took place in the seaside town of Capernaum,

which is located on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee. The news quickly spread that Jesus was coming back to bring more blessings to those in need. Before long, a great crowd gathered and packed the house where Jesus was going to be. **Let's turn to Mark 2:1-12** to read the story. [Have students read the verses together.]

What does it mean to be paralyzed? [Take some responses.] It means that you can't move your body at all. You can't walk or sit on your own. You need constant help from others to get dressed, buy food, drink water, travel from place to place, etc. You can't be independent, as you always need someone to take care of your daily needs. You would probably feel like a burden to others, depressed and distressed all the time. How dreadful it would be to live a paralytic's life!

Let's focus on verses 3-4. "Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying."

This paralytic was one lucky man! He had friends who had great faith in Christ and truly cared about him. When they heard that Jesus was coming, they believed that Jesus could heal their friend. They weren't afraid of trouble but quickly carried their friend on a mat to see Jesus. However, they soon faced the challenge of not being able to get through the doorway, since a huge crowd was blocking it.

Though they might have felt discouraged, the friends didn't give up. Instead, they climbed up to the roof. Imagine these friends having to maneuver up narrow stairs while carrying the mat. It must have been difficult, yet they were determined to bring their sick friend to Christ.

Little by little, they dug away pieces of the roof to make a hole, and then slowly and firmly lowered their friend through it, down to Jesus' feet.

"When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven you'" (Mk 2:5).

It was their faith that touched Jesus. They believed wholeheartedly that as long as they came before Jesus, their friend would be healed. They put their faith into action and were determined to bring their friend to see Jesus, regardless of any obstacles they might encounter on the way. In the end, the paralytic was able to receive Christ's powerful and complete healing for his body and soul.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to fill out "The Paralytic and His Four Friends" section on the Bible Discovery worksheet.

Jesus Heals the Centurion's Servant (Lk 7:1-10)

Not far from where the paralytic was healed in Capernaum, Jesus performed another miracle. **Let's read Luke 7:1-10.** Here, the story tells us about a man who trusted in Jesus for something he hoped for but couldn't yet see. This man, a centurion, was powerful; he commanded one hundred soldiers. One day, one of the centurion's favorite servants was sick and about to die. The centurion heard about Jesus and His mighty healing. Without delay, he quickly sent some Jewish elders to ask Jesus to come and heal the servant. The Jewish elders pleaded with Jesus, telling them that the centurion was a good man who loved the Jews and had built their synagogue. Jesus agreed to go with them.

When Jesus was near the house, the centurion sent some friends to Jesus to say: "Lord, do not trouble Yourself, for I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof. Therefore I did not even think myself worthy to come to You. But say the word, and my servant will be healed" (vv. 6-7). Let's also look at verse 8. The centurion understood what it meant to have authority, because he himself had soldiers under him. He knew that whatever commands he gave his own soldiers, they would follow. The centurion knew that Jesus had even greater authority over illnesses and diseases. He trusted that if Jesus said that his servant would be healed, that's what would happen. The centurion's faith was so great that he didn't even feel that it was necessary for Jesus to step foot in his house.

Jesus was amazed at the centurion's faith. He said, "I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel" (v. 9). When the centurion's friends returned to the house, they found the servant completely well! Again, faith works wonders! Based on the centurion's firm belief,

Jesus healed the servant with just a word, without even laying eyes on the sick man.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to fill out "The Centurion's Servant" section on the Bible Discovery worksheet.

The Bleeding Woman (Lk 8:43-48)

As Matthew 7:7-8 says, "Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you." The Scripture tells us this in such a firm voice, full of assurance. Are we determined enough, like the paralytic's four friends, to seek after Jesus' healing? Can we be like the centurion and believe first without seeing?

In another incident, Jesus also granted healing to a bleeding woman, who showed determination and sincerity while seeking and knocking on the door of faith. **Let's read Luke 8:43-48.**

Here, we have someone who had been dealing with a chronic illness for twelve years. Her family might have abandoned her since her bleeding condition was considered "unclean" in society. She was desperate to get well, but too weak to regain physical strength and too sad about not being welcomed anywhere. She spent all she had but still could not find a cure. She felt ashamed and without hope. However, she knew deeply in her heart that Jesus could heal her. Her faith cured the bleeding and made her well. She used all her might to reach out to Christ and was greatly rewarded in the end.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to fill out "The Bleeding Woman" section on the Bible Discovery worksheet.

The Blind Man in Bethsaida (Mk 8:22-26)

The miracle that took place in Bethsaida, recorded in **Mark 8:22-26**, is another great lesson that Jesus taught about faith. Let's read the story together. Why do you think Jesus led the blind man outside the town? It's possible that Jesus wanted to avoid the crowd and heal this man discreetly.

When they were outside the village, Jesus did something that was unheard of—He "spit on his eyes and put His hands on him." Then He asked, "Do you see anything?" This is a very important question because it indicated that Jesus did this purposely to make a point. The man said, "I see men like trees, walking." Then Jesus put His hands on him again and the man's sight was completely restored.

Unlike any other miracles recorded in the New Testament, Jesus took two attempts to heal this person. Why do you

think Jesus chose to perform the miracle this way? [Have students turn to their neighbor to discuss and share with the class.] Perhaps Jesus was teaching His disciples about faith, and how faith can grow to receive even greater blessings.

After Jesus touched the blind man the first time, the man could see, but not clearly. But the second time around, he received full vision. Would the story have been different if the blind man started doubting Jesus' ability to heal him? Possibly! This is to teach us that healing comes when we believe in God without doubt. Jesus knows our pain and wants to help us, but we have to trust Him completely and cultivate our faith so that it does not waver.

FOR TEACHERS

Ask students to fill out "The Blind Man in Bethsaida" section on the Bible Discovery worksheet.

Final Thoughts

So, how is our Lord Jesus different from the superheroes in comic books and movies?

From the story of the paralytic, we learned that Jesus can not only heal our bodies, but also save our souls. He has the authoritative power to forgive sins and give us a new beginning in life. In the story of the centurion, we learned that Jesus can command diseases to go away using His words alone. In the story of the bleeding woman, we saw Jesus' compassion and sympathy for those who suffered greatly, and His blessings to those with great faith. In the story of the blind man, Jesus performed His healing in stages, showing us that we can cultivate our faith in Him.

In all the stories, we recognize that Lord Jesus is the ultimate healer and helper; He wants us to trust and believe in Him with all our heart, and He rewards those who have unwavering faith in Him.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

Salvation Is Given by the Grace of God through Faith

God wants us to grow in faith as we grow in body and spirit. In the stories we studied today, their strong faith gained themselves favor in front of Christ and brought them absolute healing in the end. Let's remember that our eternal salvation is also given to us by the grace of God through our faith. Are we ready to embrace this special blessing from God? If yes, let's believe without doubting, and open our hearts completely to receive Christ into our daily life.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

1. **What does "faith" mean?** Believing in something without seeing any proof.
2. **What was the paralytic's physical condition?** He was unable to move at all. He needed constant care from others to survive.
3. **How was the paralytic more blessed than others who were also sick?** He had four friends who truly cared about him, had faith, and were determined to bring him to Christ for ultimate healing.
4. **What did the centurion do for a living?** He commanded 100 soldiers in the army.
5. **How did the centurion treat his Jewish friends?** He loved them and built a synagogue for them to worship God.
6. **How was the centurion's faith different from others?** The centurion believed in the absolute power of Christ, and that Jesus' words alone could heal his servant.
7. **Why did the bleeding woman need Christ's healing?** She had been troubled by her chronic bleeding condition for twelve years, and had spent all her money trying to find a cure to no avail.
8. **How did the bleeding woman gain her healing?** She reached out to Christ with all her might, and her firm faith and earnest heart moved Christ.
9. **How was the blind man's healing different from other miracles recorded in the Bible?** This was the only miracle in which Jesus took two steps to heal a person.
10. **What can we learn about faith from the stories above?** Answers may vary.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. Build Our Faith in God

We sometimes forget that the easiest and best solution to all our problems in life is to simply trust in God—to trust that everything happens for a reason, and have faith that our heavenly Father is there to watch over us and help us face all our challenges.

In the stories we learned today, we talked about different dimensions of faith, and how God rewards those who truly believe in Him. But how can we apply this faith in our daily life? What can we do to grow in our faith? Let's learn from Judy's story below. We will see that as we begin to experience God's incredible doings in our daily life, our faith gets strengthened.

[Hand out Life Application Worksheet #1 at this time. Have students take turn reading the two scenarios. After they have finished reading the scenarios, instruct them to complete the interview exercise on the Life Application worksheet.

Ask students to follow Judy's footsteps in finding out the answers to the two questions on their own. Find three or four people in church who can answer these two questions. Ask students whom they plan to interview so that they don't overlap. Instructs students to use the Life Application worksheet to complete the exercise and come back to the classroom to share their findings. Allow about fifteen to twenty minutes to conduct the interviews, fill out the worksheet, and share. After students share their findings, you can share with the class Judy's discovery of how to cultivate faith. You can print out Judy's findings, and have students take turns reading. If the students cannot conduct the interviews during class time, allow them to complete the worksheet during the week or after class is over.]

Judy's findings...

Answers from an older college student

Having faith in God keeps your spiritual body strong! You need to continue to cultivate your faith to keep your spiritual life healthy. It's like how you keep your physical body strong. To stay healthy, you need to work out, eat healthy, keep your mind sharp, and do things right. The same applies to our faith in Jesus Christ. We need to use our faith in Him. We do that by doing what He has asked us to do, and following His example in all things.

Answers from an RE teacher

If you have a desire to increase your faith in Jesus Christ, try to do it. Start by praying. Read His words in the Bible, even if it's only a few verses a day. Try to put what you read into practice. For example, the Lord Jesus told us to "love one another." Try and follow that teaching. Be nice to others, help people who might have less than you, smile, etc.. As you do so, you will notice a change come over you. You might feel more peace in your life, a calm entering your mind, or a warm feeling that seems to say that you're doing the right thing. These experiences help you realize that your faith is growing. Faith is an action word. If you put actions behind your belief, you will find that it will grow.

Answers from an Uncle

Someone I respect a lot once asked me, "Aside from Jesus Christ, whom do you have faith in?" I replied, "My mom." "Why do you have faith in her?" I thought about the question, and responded, "Well, because I know her. I know who she is, and what she's like." And then he continued to teach me a profound lesson that I will never forget. He taught me that in order to have faith in Jesus Christ, we must get to know Him, just as I have gotten to know my mom. Faith starts with a belief and is cultivated by experiences, experiences that come through experimenting with different ways to know God better. As a child, I must have believed that my mom would take care of me. This belief led me to knock on her door in the middle of the night after I had a nightmare; she scooped me up and stayed with me the rest of the night. My belief that she would help me led me to knock on her door. The experiment of knocking on her door led to me having the experience of her taking me into her arms and calming my fears. This experience led me to trust her. So, how does this apply to cultivating faith in Christ? We start with a belief that He will hear us if we pray, or teach us as we learn about Him, which will lead us to experiment with ways of knowing Him, such as through praying, attending services, or reading the Bible. These experiments will lead us to have real experiences. Once we have experiences, we will realize, "Hey, the experiment worked!" Then, we will keep experimenting.

2. Testimony: A Message of Hope

[Hand out copies of Life Application Worksheet #2 and take turns reading the testimony with the students. Afterwards, discuss with the students how Dn. Solgot never gave up on God and continued to completely rely on Him. Ask the students to share their reflections on the testimony.]

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

Students should write a testimony of a time when they turned to God and received an answered prayer, or of a time when they placed trust in God and felt God's guidance afterward.



Activity

1. Pictionary / 2. Faith Painting

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To learn from the examples of those whose great faith was recorded in Hebrews 11.

Materials

- Sheets of paper
- Pencils

Instructions

1. Play Pictionary using the characters found in Hebrews 11, the Bible's "chapter of faith." [Teacher: please take some time to read through Chapter 11 to review what each character accomplished by faith. Prepare a piece of paper with the following list of characters and references.] The characters are as follows:
 - Abel offered a better sacrifice (Heb 11:4)
 - Enoch did not see death (Heb 11:5)
 - Noah built an ark (Heb 11:7)
 - Abraham obeyed God and left his hometown, then later offered his only son Isaac (Heb 11:8-10, 17)
 - Sarah bore a child at an old age (Heb 11:11)
 - Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau (Heb 11:20)
 - Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born (Heb 11:23)
 - Moses rejected Pharaoh's palace, and led the Israelites out of Egypt (Heb 11:24-28)
 - Israelites crossed the Red Sea (Heb 11:29)
 - The walls of Jericho fell (Heb 11:30)
 - Rahab protected the spies and was saved (Heb 11:31)
 - Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, and Samuel conquered kingdoms and overcame weaknesses to become God's prophets and kings (Heb 11:32-38)
2. Separate the students into two (or more, depending on class size) teams.
3. Have the "artists" for each team come up to the teacher, who will show them the biblical character they should draw. (Make sure the students cannot see the other characters on the list when you show them which character to draw.) Students should read the verse to know enough about the character to draw a related picture (teacher can give them more details as needed).
4. The "artists" will each draw their pictures for their teammates, who will try to guess who is being drawn.
5. The first team to guess the character correctly gets a point. Ask teams to switch artists, and then start the next round. The chance to draw should be spread evenly among the team members.
6. Play as many rounds as time allows, and then close by discussing how each character was an example of faith.

2. Faith Painting

Objective: To reflect what faith is through painting or drawing.

Materials

- Pencils
- Watercolors
- Paintbrushes
- Blank paper

Instructions

1. Share with students that having faith means believing in something that they have not seen, and trusting that it is so. Some people believe everything they are told. Others require proof for everything. Most people cannot have faith in something unless they know something about it. God has always provided man with lots of proof of His existence and His love to help us believe in and put our faith in Him.
2. Ask students to take some time to form a picture in their head of what faith really means to them. If they were to use a concrete object or action to represent faith, what would it be? Help students to brainstorm some ideas before they start drawing.

For example, they can draw a symbol of faith from the Bible, like the dove in the story of Noah, the rainbow after the flood, or the rod that Moses held up in front of the Red Sea. They can draw a scene from one of the stories in today's lesson. They can also think about all the characters mentioned in Hebrews, chapter 11 and their examples of faith. Likewise, students can choose to draw a scene from a testimony of their own, of their family members, or of church brothers and sisters. Other ideas are great as well!

3. Encourage students to make a sketch using pencil first before using watercolors to paint.
4. Take some time at the end to allow students to share their artwork with the class.

JESUS IS LORD OVER DISEASES

Instructions: Answer the following questions, and then fill in the charts as you follow along with the lesson.

1. Turn to your neighbor and discuss what faith means to you, and then write down your own definition.

Answers may vary.

2. How does the dictionary define "faith"?

Having "faith" means believing in something or trusting in someone without seeing any proof.

3. What does the Bible say about faith? Please turn to Hebrews 11:1 and write down the verse.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

The Paralytic and His Four Friends

What kind of sickness did this person have?	How did Jesus heal this person?	What kind of faith was shown?
<i>He was paralyzed; he couldn't move his body at all.</i>	<i>He said, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."</i>	<i>Complete faith; the paralytic immediately followed Jesus' command and arose to go to his house.</i>

The Centurion's Servant

What kind of sickness did this person have?	How did Jesus heal this person?	What kind of faith was shown?
<i>The centurion's servant was paralyzed, sick, and ready to die.</i>	<i>Without even laying eyes on the sick person, He healed him, because of the centurion's faith.</i>	<i>Complete faith; the centurion believed that Jesus did not even need to see the person to heal him. He believed that Jesus could heal just by speaking.</i>

The Bleeding Woman

What kind of sickness did this person have?	How did Jesus heal this person?	What kind of faith was shown?
<i>She had a constant flow of blood for twelve years for which no one could find a cure.</i>	<i>The woman touched the hem of His garment and was immediately healed by His power.</i>	<i>Complete faith; the woman believed that as long as she just touched Jesus' garment, she would be healed.</i>

The Blind Man in Bethsaida

What kind of sickness did this person have?	How did Jesus heal this person?	What kind of faith was shown?
<i>He was blind.</i>	<i>He first spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, but he was only partially healed. He then put His hands on him again and this time, he was fully healed.</i>	<i>Complete faith; the blind man did not question Jesus after He had partially healed him the first time. He had faith that Jesus could heal him completely.</i>

JESUS IS LORD OVER DISEASES

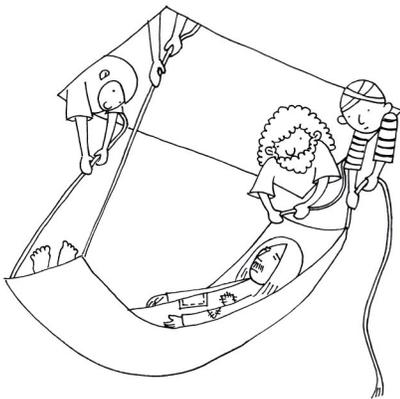
Instructions: Answer the following questions, and then fill in the charts as you follow along with the lesson.

1. Turn to your neighbor and discuss what faith means to you, and then write down your own definition.

2. How does the dictionary define "faith"?



3. What does the Bible say about faith? Please turn to Hebrews 11:1 and write down the verse.



The Paralytic and His Four Friends

What kind of sickness did this person have?	How did Jesus heal this person?	What kind of faith was shown?

The Centurion's Servant

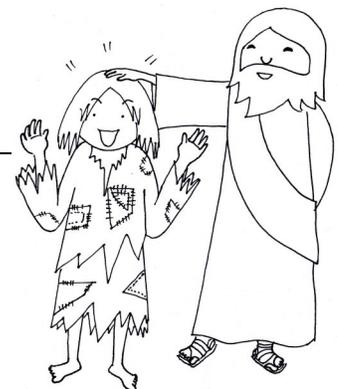
What kind of sickness did this person have?	How did Jesus heal this person?	What kind of faith was shown?

The Bleeding Woman

What kind of sickness did this person have?	How did Jesus heal this person?	What kind of faith was shown?

The Blind Man in Bethsaida

What kind of sickness did this person have?	How did Jesus heal this person?	What kind of faith was shown?



BUILD OUR FAITH IN GOD

Instructions: Read the following two scenarios, and then wait for the teacher's instructions for the interview exercise.

Scenario 1

Many of the students in Judy's math class had not been keeping up with homework for the past three days. Not surprisingly, this made the teacher angry—so angry that Mrs. Jackson threatened to call their parents if they didn't all turn in their assignments the next day! So, Judy made sure that she did her homework that night. There was nothing she dreaded more than her parents finding out that she was not doing her homework. What would happen if her father found out that it was math she was neglecting? Well, could it get any worse? Having these things in mind, Judy painstakingly finished her homework, making sure that everything was perfect—every fraction was simplified, every unit was clearly written, and every single step was neatly shown. There was nothing missing.

The next morning Judy got up, dressed, brushed her teeth, ate her breakfast, and set off for school. A quarter of the way there, a thought entered her mind, "What if I forgot to put my homework in my backpack?" However, Judy was sure she could not have possibly forgotten her homework on such an important day, so she dismissed the thought and kept walking. After walking another block, Judy decided to check her backpack just to be certain that her homework was in there, but it was NOT! Judy looked again; she looked through her red folder, her blue one, her green one, and the polka-dotted purple one, but her homework was nowhere in her backpack!

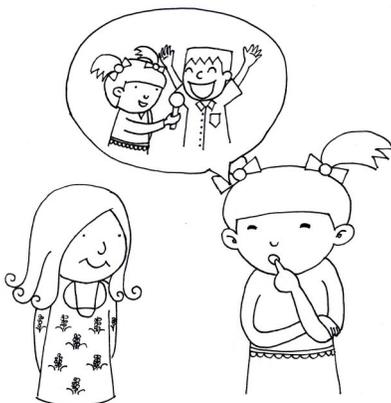
Judy turned around and ran all the way back home. When Judy got home, she searched upstairs, downstairs, and even the stairway! But her homework was nowhere to be found! Judy began to feel very anxious. Two pieces of paper, just two pieces of paper were all she wanted. Was that too much to ask for? Judy tried calling her parents (maybe one of them had put her homework away), but they were both in meetings.

What could she do? Judy went to the living room, sat down on the floor, and began to cry. She had worked so hard on the assignment! As Judy cried, she prayed to God—there was no one she could turn to. Then, through her tears, she saw the vague outline of two pieces of paper underneath the couch. Judy crawled towards it and discovered that it was her homework! Stuffing it into her backpack, she looked at her watch; she still had five minutes to get to school. As Judy dashed out of the house, she smiled and thought, "Wow! God really answers prayers!"



Scenario 2

After Judy had experienced God personally, following her prayer and exhaustive search for homework, she knew that God truly listens to earnest prayers! She was determined to cultivate more faith in God so that she would no longer panic in desperate situations. She wondered to herself, "But how can I cultivate my faith in God? What should I do every day to help me build a better relationship with God?" She remembered that one of her teachers at church once mentioned that faith is not a noun, it is a verb! Faith has to be backed up with actions to become true faith. Judy thought to herself, "I must do something, but what can I do?"



The following Saturday when she went to church, she shared her grand plan with her best friend, Maggie. "Maggie, I have made up my mind to really cultivate my faith in the Lord; it is really important to me. But I don't know what to do and how to do it. So I was praying about it, and all of the sudden, I got this idea in my head that I could actually interview some people in church to find out how they built up their own faith in God. Then I can learn from them! What do you think about this idea? Should I do it?"

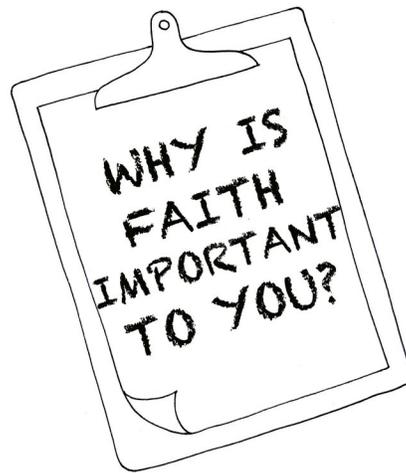
Maggie hesitated before answering Judy. She eventually replied slowly, "Are you sure you're going to go around and ask people about their faith? Don't you think it's a bit strange and kind of embarrassing to ask those kinds of questions? I don't know. I would be too shy to talk about faith with other people that I don't really know."

Judy thought about it and said, "Well, you're right! It might be a bit awkward to go around asking people questions, but I think it would be really fun to learn more about how others build their own faith. The term 'cultivating faith' sounds so vague to me at this moment. How awesome would it be if I could learn from others' experiences? Besides, it won't take long for people to respond to my question. I just need simple answers."

Maggie's hesitance didn't discourage Judy. During lunchtime, she took her notebook and a pencil and swung into action! She approached several older college students, some RE teachers, and a few uncles and aunties she knew. Her interview only had two simple questions:

- Why is faith important to you?
- What do you do every day to build up your faith?

Follow in Judy's footsteps to interview at least three people you know...



Questions to Ask

1. Why is faith important to you?
2. What do you do every day to build up your faith?

Interviewee: _____ Relationship to you: _____
 Interview notes:

Interviewee: _____ **Relationship to you:** _____
Interview notes:

Interviewee: _____ **Relationship to you:** _____
Interview notes:

Interviewee: _____ **Relationship to you:** _____
Interview notes:

A MESSAGE OF HOPE

During my younger adult years, God blessed me with some very special miracles of healing. These miracles happened in both my life and in the lives of my wife and children.

For example, as a young Air Force airman, I was diagnosed with stomach cancer, the same cancer that took the life of my mother when I was 4 years old. However, through my wife's faithful and heartfelt prayers with fasting to God, I was healed within a few weeks.

Then several years later, my oldest son, who was 7 years old at the time, was diagnosed with scoliosis. But after 6 weeks of my wife fasting and praying two meals a day, he was healed of his condition.

One thing I've learned through my walk of faith is this: God may choose to heal or He may not, but regardless of how He answers prayers, it is always for our better good.

In 2005, I was diagnosed with an autoimmune system disorder called ankylosing spondylitis, or AS for short. What basically happens is my immune system is overactive, and it begins to attack and destroy the good cells in my body. In my case, it is focusing on my spine, my hips, and my lungs. Eventually my spine will become solid bone. There is no known cure to man for this illness, and medications only treat the symptoms, but often the side effects make life worse.

When I first received this bad news, I was naturally devastated and concerned. But one thing is for sure, because God has blessed my family and me with so much in the past, I could never doubt or question Him now. I knew I had to entrust this condition to Him. So I decided to cease taking all narcotic pain meds and self-injected biologics because they only made me suffer more.

You know, the doctors told me 8 years ago that in 5 years I would be confined to a wheelchair. And I praise and thank God that today I am still free from that wheelchair. Even though every day I live with a constant pain level of 5 to 6, some days shooting up to 10 and beyond, I have chosen to rely on God. Not necessarily to heal me, although I would be very blessed and happy if He did, but simply just to give me what I need for each day to work for Him. Lord, just help me put aside the pain—help me live my life for You.

Some of you may need to hear this message today. You may have a physical infirmity and have been told that there is nothing the doctors can do. But let me tell you, Jesus can change your circumstance with the Word. I don't know why everyone is not healed immediately, just like I don't know why He has healed me in the past but not this time. But I do know that He is able to do so. You see, I don't think it has so much to do with our sincerity as it does His will. God sometimes has a plan that we just don't understand. So if you are in such a state, I encourage you to turn to Him for help, believe that God can heal you. As James said in James 5:14-15:

*"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him...
And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up."*

And then, rest in God's grace and wisdom.

You may face a life situation that seems hopeless, but if you turn to Jesus, the Lord can change your circumstances—at least, He will change your attitude within those circumstances. He may even open a door to a better opportunity. He can take even the worst situation and use it for His glory.

Trust Him, and let Him use you. Watch and see what He can do through you. Give Him the shattered pieces of your life, and then watch Him carefully arrange those broken pieces like an artist working on a piece of stained glass, arranging it into a work of art.

The point is this: Nothing is hopeless when the Lord of life walks with you. Don't give up on Him, because He will not give up on you.

So I encourage you to do something today - tell the Lord that you trust Him, even in the midst of the seemingly hopeless circumstances of your life. Go back to the Bible, the Scriptures, and read His promises. Do what He commands. And then, rest in Him. Wait on Him, patiently, in prayer. Dare yourself to trust Him truly, and then watch and see what God will do for you.

