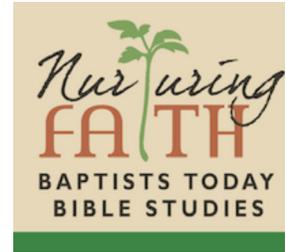


Youth Teaching Resources

August 7, 2016



Faith Matters: Lessons From Hebrews (August 7-28)

You're Not the First — Hebrews 11:1-16

You're Not Alone — Hebrews 11:29-12:2

All Shook Up — Hebrews 12:14-29

Remember – and Do — Hebrews 13:1-16

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You're Not the First

Hebrews 11:1-16

YOUTH Teaching Guide

by Jeremy Colliver

This youth teaching outline is designed to support THE BIBLE LESSON by Tony Cartlege, printed in *Baptists Today*. You can subscribe to either the digital or print edition of *Baptists Today* to access the lessons. Please also ensure that each person in your class has a copy of *Baptists Today* so they can prepare before the lesson.

PARENT PREP

We all want our children to have faith. We know that impact that faith has had on our live and the way that it has shaped us, has helped us in times of trouble, and has given us a reason to be joyful. In many areas of our life, when we want our children to have something, we send them to an expert to help them learn the skills that they will need to have this thing. Often, we think of the same thing when it comes to our faith, we send our children to church to learn from experts about how to live out and grow in their faith. Here's the catch with that, The National Study on Youth and Religion found that the group of people that had the biggest impact on a child's faith was their parents; not the church, not a church leader, but their parents. This makes sense when you think about it: our faith is one that is lived out daily, and who do our children see more than anyone else, their parents. So remember to live out your faith in a way that your children can model their own faith.

TEACHING THE LESSON

Fellowship

Before the session begins write the names of several biblical heroes on slips of paper and put them in a cup that the students will be able to draw from. As the students enter the room, create two equal teams and have them sit on opposite sides of the room. When everyone has arrived, explained to the large group that they will be playing Charades based on biblical characters. Explain the rules to Charades and allow the teams to play several rounds. After the game is over, facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) Which biblical character was the easiest to guess? Which character was the hardest to guess?
- 2) How did you decide what to act out about each character?
- 3) Why do you think these characters were so recognizable?
- 4) How would someone portray you in a game of Charades? Would the examples they use be based on your faith?
- 5) How does your faith define who you are and the actions that you take on a daily basis?

Information

Transition to the next section of the session by reading Hebrews 11:1-16. Allow the students to ask any initial questions they have about the text. As you answer their questions, you may want to provide some of the information found in Tony's commentary to answer their questions. When the students have had an opportunity to share their initial thoughts, continue the discussion by facilitating a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) How would you define faith? How does the writer of Hebrews define faith?
- 2) How can you tell if someone has faith? What does the writer of Hebrews say you will do/be if you are a person of faith?
- 3) Who are the people that the author of Hebrews mentions as people of faith? What makes them people of faith?
- 4) Who would you add to the list from Hebrews as people of faith?
- 5) Why are people of faith remembered? What do you want to be remembered for? What have you already done as a person of faith that you are remembered for?

If your group would like to dig deeper in their discussion, share some of the insights that Tony provides in the "Digging Deeper" portion of his commentary. You may want to use some questions like the following to facilitate your discussion:

- 1) How does chapter 11 of Hebrews build on the previous discourse in Hebrews?
- 2) How are we to please God according to these verses in Hebrews?
- 3) What was being tested of Abraham when he was asked to sacrifice Isaac?

You may also want your group to discuss "The Hardest Question" if they would like to continue their discussion on this passage. Tony poses the following question to consider as "The Hardest Question": Who wrote Hebrews, when, and why?

Transformation

Conclude your session by showing the clip "Thank You For Your Letter" from *Arthur Christmas*. If you are unable to show the clip, summarize it to the best of your ability, and then facilitate a discussion using questions like the following:

- 1) How does giving thanks for people shape who you become?
- 2) Who are people that have helped you along your faith journey?
- 3) If you were to write a "Thank You" letter to someone who has helped you, who would you write? Why this person?

After you have finished your discussion, distribute paper and writing utensils to the students so that they can write a note of thanks to the people that they have mentioned. When everyone has finished writing, close your time together in silent prayer when the students can call out the names of the people they are thankful for.