



Foundations Leaders' Guide

Lesson 3 – Faith in God

Objectives

- Continue to get to know group members
- Understand the Biblical definition and importance of faith
- Understand the facts of the gospel: how individuals can be eternally saved, and how they are to live once they have received eternal life

Preparation

- Establish a meeting place and time
- Pray for the members of your group, that throughout the semester they would “be filled with a knowledge of God’s will so they may live a life worthy of the Lord” (*Colossians 1.9-12*)
- Print a notes sheet for each student
- If you are co-leading, determine who will lead which parts of the meeting

Meeting Notes

1. Welcome Jesus

Matthew 18.20: “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them.”

- ✓ Lead the group in prayer by welcoming Jesus as Lord, and asking Him to teach and transform each member of the group.

2. Welcome Each Other

- ✓ Lead the group in a personal discussion about how each member is doing, how God is working in the group and lives of each member, or any other topics. It can also be helpful for the group to share a funny story or personal story relevant to the day’s lesson.

3. Receive From the Lord


3.1 Review

Spend time reviewing the content from lesson 1, including Standing in the Gap’s mission, the four chairs of discipleship, and the content from any previous lessons.

Teacher’s Note: *Group members should already be familiar with this content. To help them remember and memorize it, ask questions. For example, rather than stating “The purpose of Standing in the Gap is to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ,” ask “What is the purpose of Standing in the Gap?”*

3.2 Faith in God

The second foundational teaching about Christ, faith, is the counterpart to repentance and absolutely essential to the Christian life. Faith is a widely used word in our culture, so it is crucial that we look to God’s word for our source of truth. Fortunately, the Bible has a lot to say on the topic. In fact, faith is one of the words for which the Bible provides a precise definition.

 *Hebrews 11.1*

- ? What does this definition of faith mean to you? Does it differ from your personal understanding of faith?

As this verse states, “faith is confidence in what we hope for...” **Hope**, by definition, is focused on the **future**. **Faith**, on the other hand, is confidence rooted in the **present**. Because faith is rooted in the present, it often causes a person to shift their way of thinking or acting. attitude-shaping, action-determining confidence in something that has not yet come.

- ? Can you think of an example of the difference between hope and faith?
- ? Is it possible to have hope without faith, or faith without hope? Why or why not?

In his book *Repent & Believe*, Derek Prince notes that many have fallen into the trap of “faith of the mind,” or mere intellectual agreement with certain beliefs. However, the Bible describes true faith as originating in the **heart**.

 *Romans 10.9-10*

- ? What does it mean to “believe with your heart”?

The heart is much more than a place where fuzzy feelings and emotions come from. As humans, the **heart**, along with the soul, is the **center** of our very being. Our passions, desires, will, character, understanding, and personality all spring from the heart. To truly have faith and “believe with your heart” is to orient your entire being toward the object of your faith. Many passages in Scripture show us that true faith is connected with **what we say, what we do, and how we live**:

📖 *James 2.14-26*

📖 *2 Corinthians 5.14-15*

📖 *Optional reading: 2 Timothy 3:1-5*

? How does this understanding of faith compare with what you have thought, witnessed, and experienced in your life?

Romans 10.9-10 also describes that we are **saved** from the corruption of sin **through faith in Jesus Christ**. Other passages throughout the Bible clearly teach that it is only through faith in Jesus that we can be saved, and there is nothing we can do to save ourselves:

📖 *Romans 10.9-13*

📖 *Ephesians 2.8-9*

📖 *Optional reading: John 6:47-48*

📖 *Optional reading: 1 Corinthians 15.1-7*

? These passages include lots of words like grace, faith, and saved, that we do not often use in everyday conversation. How do you understand what they are trying to describe?

According to Scripture, faith in Jesus for salvation is a matter of eternal significance for us all. Therefore, this teaching should be of primary importance to anyone who considers him/ herself a Christian. However, faith does not stop there. Once we have confidence in God’s salvation, we are called to grow in and live by our faith as we become more like Jesus in this life.

📖 *John 14.12*

For us to do the things Jesus did, and even greater things, we must have the kind of faith Jesus had! Throughout the gospels, Jesus demonstrates an incredible connection between the **power of God** and **faith in God**:

📖 *Mark 5.21-6.5*

📖 *Optional reading: Matthew 14.22-32*

📖 *Optional reading: Mark 11.22-25*

? Imagine you have the kind of faith Jesus, or the people in these stories, had. How might your life be different? What kinds of things would you think about and spend time doing?

Faith is like a tree: it is always growing. One thing that unites everyone is the need to learn and grow in matters of faith. Even Jesus’ disciples recognized that they had much to learn.

📖 *Luke 17.5-6*

📖 *Optional reading: 1 Corinthians 2.1-5*

Faith is inseparable from repentance, our first foundational teaching. Just as repentance is a 180-degree turn away from sin, **faith is instead turning completely toward God** and putting our confidence in Him for our earthly and eternal lives. The result of

this inward faith will be outward obedience to God. Sometimes the world, or even our own senses, will try to deter us, but we can have confidence in God and his perfect love. In this sense faith is not just belief, it is a new way of life:

 2 Corinthians 5:7

To conclude:

- ? Have you repented and expressed faith in Christ by confessing with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, according to *Romans 10.9-10*? Why or why not?
- ? If you have, is your faith growing? Is God pleased with your faith and what it is producing in your life? Why or why not?

4. Offer Response to the Lord

- ✓ Lead the group in prayer by thanking the Lord for His presence, and asking Him to continue to teach and transform the group through the power of the Holy Spirit.