

The Just Live By Faith

Hebrews 10:26-39

MEMORY VERSE

HEBREWS 10:38a

“Now the just shall live by faith.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Several small pillows.

Blindfolds or small boxes (or plastic containers) with small holes, various spices or scents such as cinnamon, onion, allspice, etc.

Make green Jell-O with green grapes before class, napkins or paper towels.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Endurance Test

Bring several small pillows. Demonstrate endurance by asking who can hold up a small pillow with both hands stretched out in front, palms up. Even pillows may feel heavy after a few minutes. Have several pillows available so kids can try to outlast one another. Hopping on one foot or both feet are good endurance tests for younger and wigglier children.

Explain that a part of living by faith is endurance, or hanging in there. God helps us to endure even when we don't have a lot of strength. All we have to do is keep on trusting in Him.

LESSON TIME!

In today's lesson we will be talking about living by faith. The theme says that God wants us to live our lives trusting in Him. That is what faith is all about – trusting in God. In Hebrews 11:6 the Bible says that without faith it is impossible to please God.

This section in Hebrews chapter 10 can be kind of a heavy section of Scripture, especially for children. The great encouragement for us who are walking by faith is that we don't have to worry about any of the strong warnings in these verses. We want to learn how to walk by faith so that we can be pleasing to our Heavenly Father. God wants us to live by faith, trusting in Him for our salvation as well as trusting Him as we live out our Christian lives day by day.

If you were to plant an apple tree, then you watered it, gave it nutrients and took very good care of it, what would you expect to happen? You expect to get a crop of apples. What would happen if you went out one morning looking to pick a nice, fresh, sweet apple and when you come to the tree you see a crop of sour lemons? What would you think? You would probably think that this certainly isn't the type of fruit that should be coming from an apple tree. You would also be questioning whether or not this really ever was an apple tree.

Jesus was very specific that if we abide in Him (have a relationship with Him) that certain fruit would come from our lives. The fruit in our lives would show what trunk and root system we were attached to. If we are attached to Jesus, then "good" fruit will come from our lives. If we are attached to anything else, this world or ourselves, then "bad" fruit will come out of our lives. We will not produce sour lemons if we are attached to Jesus. **God wants us to trust in Him.**

HEBREWS 10:26-31

For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses.

Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people."

It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

In these verses we learn what happens in a life without faith. Faith means that we believe in and trust in Jesus. First of all, we believe in Him for our salvation. We realize that we have sinned or done things wrong. Then we understand that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and that if we believe in Him we will be saved. If we want to "live by faith" then we must begin by believing in Jesus to be saved.

Some people may say that they are Christians; they may say the right things or even go to church, but in their hearts they really are not Christians. If someone goes on sinning all of the time and does not care what Jesus thinks about it, then that is probably a good indication that there is something wrong in their heart. If Jesus is in our heart, then He will be changing our lives and helping us to live like Him. We will not be perfect, but we will want to be more like Him.

There is only one salvation that God has provided for man. That is salvation through His son Jesus. If people do not take it seriously when they hear the gospel and they learn about Jesus, but still turn

away from Him on purpose, then there is no other way that they can be saved.

Unfortunately they have made a decision to stay separated from God instead of coming to Him through Jesus. The Bible says that there is no eternal life apart from Him, only death. Sin will be punished one day because God is holy. But God also loves us and has provided a way to be saved through His Son, Jesus.

So, we can live by faith by first of all having faith (believing) in Jesus for our salvation. **God wants us to trust in Him.**

Faith

If we are supposed to live by faith, then we have to know what faith is. How about following our nose and doing some smelling-tests? You can either use blindfolds or make small “aroma boxes.” Use little boxes or plastic containers with holes poked in the top. Fill with different things that can be “sensed” but not seen (such as onion, cinnamon, vanilla, pepper, curry, allspice, tuna, etc.).

Faith is described in Hebrews 11:1 as “the evidence of things not seen.” Even though the children do not “see” the different things in the boxes they still know it is there because of its effect (smell). Wind could also be demonstrated by putting a fan behind a bookshelf or inside a box then look at the air. You cannot see the wind. Then hold up different things that will show the effect of the wind, such as a feather, a piece of paper, or a scarf. There is evidence.

We also cannot see God, but we know by faith that He is present in this world and in our lives because of the effect that His Holy Spirit has upon our lives.

HEBREWS 10:32-35

But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated, you endured a great struggle with sufferings:

partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated;

for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven.

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward.

Whenever we live by faith we will remember God's faithfulness. Think of a time or a situation in your life that was very difficult. Maybe you or someone you love was sick. Did you pray and ask the Lord to help in that situation? And what did He do?

God is always faithful to His children. I can trust in the Lord today because I have seen how faithful He has been all of my life. Just because we believe in Jesus does not mean that we will never have any problems. Often times as Christians we may have all different kinds of problems in our lives, but God is always with us and will help us through everything.

The great thing is that as we see God work in our lives and help us through hard things it will make our faith stronger. We can actually have more and more confidence in Jesus as we continue to see Him work in our lives. Our confidence is always in Him and not in ourselves. So, we can live by faith today because of God's faithfulness. **God wants us to trust in Him.**

HEBREWS 10:36-39

For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

"For yet a little while, And He who is coming will come and will not tarry.

Now the just shall live by faith; But if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure in him."

But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

Living by faith will help us today and into the future. We continually trust in the Lord to help us through each day in every situation. Living by faith helps us to hang in there or endure.

There are some athletes who run miles in races. It can be very hard work to run a lot of miles. There has to be a lot of preparation and practice to be able to run long distances. They also have to have a lot of endurance to be able to keep hanging in there, even when they are tired and feel like giving up. But they know that the finish line is coming and they know that if they just keep going that they can make it.

Whenever we live our lives trusting in the Lord (by faith) then we know that one day our finish line will come. The Lord will return and reward those who have been faithful. He will help us to make it to the finish line, if we just trust in Him. **God wants us to trust in Him.**

Something that would be very good to do is to read on to Hebrews 11 and learn about all of the men and women who lived by faith in years past. It is encouraging to see how God used them greatly as

they walked by faith and not by sight. And God can use us greatly as we trust in Him day by day.

What does living by faith mean to you? How can you live by faith? Remember that God has given us His Holy Spirit to help us live for Him. We can live by faith because He has given us the power and ability to live for Him.

Draw Back – Green Goopy Slime

Explain to the children that you will be making “eyeball soup.” Make a recipe of green Jell-O with green grapes ahead of time. Allow a couple of volunteers to put their hand into your fresh “eyeball soup” without being able to see it.

It is pretty tough to stick your fingers into a goopy slime to begin with, let alone keep them in there when you feel the grapes (how gross!). Demonstrate to the children that we are not like those who give up when the going gets tough (or those who draw back to perdition). But we hang in there even when the going gets tough.

Please do not force the children, it is just an example and by all means do not eat it. Have plenty of paper towels or napkins.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to live by faith, trusting in the Lord daily. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.