

Construction Crew/ Kid Builders!

Where worship and fun collide!

525 Garden Drive, Marysville, Ohio 43040

Faith!?!

Memory Verse: ...**"According to your faith will it be done to you"....**
Matthew 9:29

Lesson Objective: In this lesson, students will learn the importance of having faith in God. Children sometimes have a hard time developing the concept of faith. If parents do not walk in faith, then they most likely will not also. Children often do not see the need to walk beyond their parent's faith. Ironically, children whose parents have great faith will tend to rely on them. This lesson will teach children the importance receiving their own faith and encourage them as well to walk in faith.

Requirements for the Lesson:

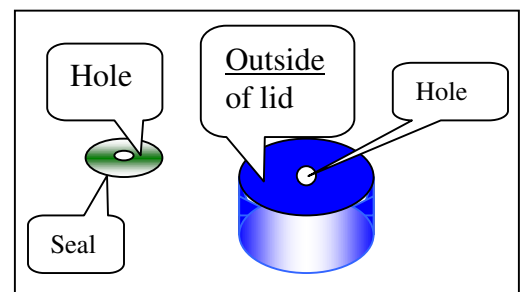
1. 12 oz soda bottle with screw-on type lid
2. White vinegar
3. Baking soda
4. A **GOOD** quality Balloon: size 18" X 12" when inflated
5. Packing tape *or* a good rubber band

Object Lessons and Lead-in to the Lesson:

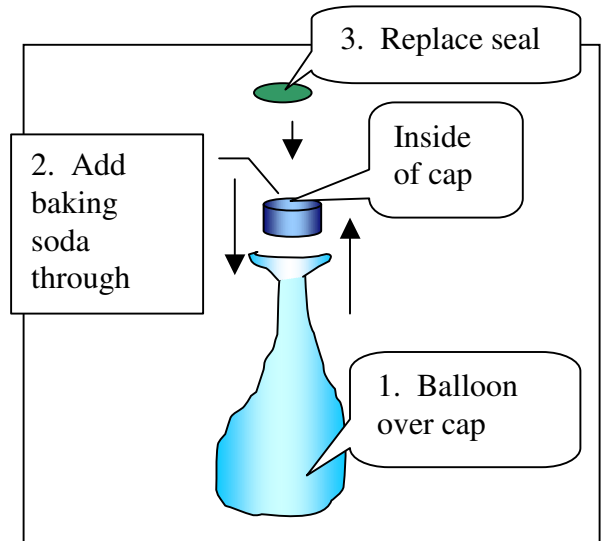
"How'd Cha Do That!" Develop an illusion by using a soda bottle to blow up a balloon.

Directions for building the object lesson:

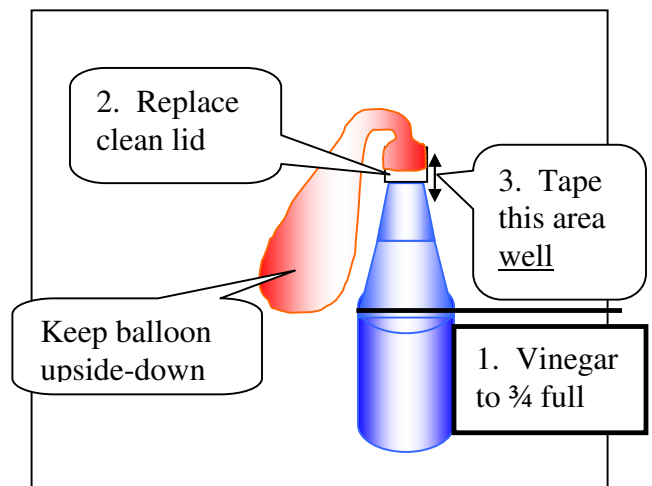
1. Use a 12 oz bottle (or size equivalent) with a screw-on type lid. Take the seal out from inside the lid. Carefully cut a 1/4 to 5/8" hole in the middle of it. (It doesn't have to be perfect, just don't damage the edge where it has to seal again to the bottle's top.) Drill a hole (1/4 to 5/8th") in the middle of the lid.



- Fit the balloon over the outside of the cap. The balloon should be a good quality one that's easy to inflate and will get about 18" high by 12" across. Now put baking soda in a balloon (about 1/4 to 1/3 full). Clean the baking soda out of the inside of the cap, and replace the seal. Keep the balloon turned upside down. You don't want any of the vinegar and baking soda to get together *until* the demonstration.



- Put vinegar in the bottom of the bottle (at least 3/4 full). Screw the cap back onto the bottle. Tape around the balloon and the bottle where they meet with packing tape so that the end of the balloon on the cap and the bottle are sealed. You can also use a good rubber band to hold the balloon onto the cap. If you do this, then do it *before* you put the cap back onto the bottle. Make sure the rubber band is long enough in order to wrap it around the balloon and cap several times. With the balloon leaned over so that the soda can't get to the vinegar, screw the lid on tight. You are now ready to blow up the balloon. It is suggested that you test it once prior to class just to make sure that your object lesson is functioning properly, and that you are familiar with how much vinegar to mix into the balloon to keep the reaction going.



The Demonstration: Ask the children who has faith to believe that the balloon can inflate itself. See what kind of reaction you get. After you take the vote, perform the trick. Shake some of the vinegar into the balloon. Keep doing this until the balloon will go no further. Explain that "we" as Christians, tend to treat God in this same way. We don't believe unless God shows us. Unfortunately, we see we should trust God *before* He moves; quite often, afterward is too late.

“Time Capsule” Review the story of the Centurion from Matthew chapter eight. Get a volunteer (preferably, a big man with big character). Have him review the story prior to class also, and find some props for him to use. Here are some suggestions:

- A Roman helmet
- A plastic sword
- Sandals
- A sheet for a robe
- A toy shield

You could also use anything else that could be useful for effects, such as keyboard sounds, strobe lights, flashing lights, or anything else that you may have around the church. Be creative. The idea is to create a time warp feel.

Have the centurion bust into the room, wondering where he is. Mention to the class what a great opportunity it is to be able to interview this centurion! You can begin to ask him a bit about Jesus, and then ask him various questions about his faith and why he believes the way he does.

Lesson:

DO THE OBJECT LESSON: *"How'd Cha Do That!"*

READ: Hebrews 11:1-3

1. Faith? What is it!

QUESTION: From these scriptures, what do you think faith is like? What does it look like? Can you see it? Feel it? Taste it?

Did you ever want somebody to prove something to you before you believed it or did it? Probably, and for good reason. Someone fooled you once before, and now you know better than to just believe or trust just because somebody said so. God doesn't want to fool us. In fact, He wants us to have rock-solid proof that He exists, that He wants to be with us all of the time, and save us from our sins.

If you're a normal person (and I hope you are) you just will not accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior just because someone said you should. You did it because you felt Him in your heart, and now you know Him. You know what He does for you and your family. You know it because God gave you enough faith to believe. Because of God's faith, you can't help but believe. You know He is as real as the chair you are sitting in. It takes faith to believe in someone that you have never seen.

QUESTION: Who is your favorite movie star or favorite person? (*Allow everyone to respond.*) How do you know that person whom you have never seen really exists? *We trust our TVs and the people who say they are real.* Faith is like this.

You know that you cannot put your hand on anyone and heal them just because you want to. But if God gives you faith to do it, then you have proof that the person will be healed. You just know it—just as sure as gravity holds you to the earth.

a. Things That Make Up Faith.

If faith is something that we can touch, then something must make it up. It's created by God himself. The Bible says that all faith comes from God. Jesus makes our faith and finishes it too (Hebrews 12:2). He wants to make great faith for us, but there are a few things we must do if we want great faith.

(1) Understand God

Understanding God is something we all want to do, but God is bigger and smarter than we will ever understand. Not everything makes sense to us about God and the way He does things, but we can know that everything God does is *right*. It may not even seem like it at the time, but what God does will prove to be right in the end. Lots of people in the Bible wouldn't trust God. The Israelites began to grumble against God and Moses over and over because they thought they knew better than God did. That's like *not* having any faith at all. Since God wants to give you faith, then not taking His faith is a sin. God punished the Israelites who grumbled because they didn't trust Him; instead, they had done what they wanted to do.

(2) Trust God

We also have to trust God. He said in the Bible that He will never leave us or be mean to us (Hebrews 13:5). He always keeps His promises to us. Even your parents may do something for you that you do not understand now, but it is good for you.

QUESTION: What is something your parents did for you that you didn't understand, but found out later that it was for your own good? (*Like not playing with fire, touching something hot, or not petting animals that bite*)

Still, you trust them because you know them—they take care of you. God is even more like this. He is your perfect parent. The more you trust Him, the more He can do for you.

(3) Let God In

It is important to let God into your life. It is wonderful when you let God prove that He wants to do something great in your life. Sometimes your brain tells you not to trust God because it thinks it knows better. The Devil will even through thoughts at you like: it's been too long; it's not going to happen; you're in trouble; or that people don't like you so give up on liking them.

Letting God take care of us is a bit like warring camouflage. A rabbit's fur camouflages it in the tall grass. But if an enemy comes near, the rabbit will run even though he's not seen. The rabbit didn't trust his camouflage.

QUESTION: What do you think happened when the rabbit ran? (*The other animal saw him, got him, and ate him up!*)

Instead of having faith in his cover, the rabbit trusted his own speed. That got him killed, because his own speed wasn't good enough. Munch, munch, ouch!

When people don't have faith in God, then they are like that scared rabbit. They don't trust the God that covers them, and they do it their way. Instead of waiting on the good things God has for them, they jump the gun and do it themselves. They miss God's better blessing. Sometimes not waiting on God to do what he wants to do can even get you hurt. God knows the dangers that wait on us. He can keep us out of danger if we have faith to do what He says. You sure *don't* want to end up like that rabbit!

QUESTION: Can you remember a time when you had faith to wait on God and it paid off? Perhaps a time when you did your own thing and it didn't pay off?

(4) Believing

We talk a lot about believing, but that's because it's so important. The Bible says that we will keep God's commandments if we believe. It takes faith to believe, and Jesus will even help us with that! Can't believe? Give it to Jesus, and He will even fix that (Mark 9:24)!

(5) Pray

God's Word says that if you want more faith, then you should ask for it (John 11:22). God is faithful to give you what you ask for when you pray and ask Him. He may not do it exactly when, where, and how you ask Him, but He knows what has to happen to get things to all work out perfectly.

QUESTION: What is the most important thing that you would want to ask God for right now? (*Go around the room. Don't force children to respond, but encourage them to do so*)

DO THE OBJECT LESSON:

"Time Capsule"

2. What Does Faith Do For Us?

God's faith that he gives us does things for us—lots of things. If we don't have this faith, then we can't even please God! We certainly need to please God, because we don't need Him to be angry! God's faith can help you to not be scared. It can help us to know that we can pray for someone and that they can be healed. God's faith can help us to get out of impossible jams, and to do something, even when we know in our mind that it is impossible.

a. Abraham's Faith

READ: Hebrews 11:8-10 from NKJV or NIV, **not** KJV.

Abraham was a great man, and God gave him a lot of faith. God told him that he would get a great inheritance. An inheritance is just a big word for a great reward.

QUESTION: In order to receive his inheritance, what did Abraham do? (*What God told him to do, and he did it without knowing where he was going*)

Can you imagine your family just taking off and going somewhere that God told you to go? That would take faith, which you would know that God absolutely told you to do it.

QUESTION: What did Abraham do while he was waiting on God to do what He promised? (*They traveled in hot, bad conditions in tents, and in places that was not "home"*)

Abraham could have not done what God told him to do. To Abraham, it probably looked like God had messed up, or maybe that he had heard God wrong.

QUESTION: What do you think happened for Abraham in the end for obeying God? (*God protected and blessed him*)

God said that He would make Abraham the Father of many nations. God did exactly that. God said that He would make Abraham's descendents as many as all of the grains of sand and all of the stars in the sky. That's a lot of family! Maybe some of us are from Abraham's family?

b. No Shrinking Back

Abraham knew that God was faithful, and so he did exactly what God said to do. Abraham knew that you don't win a prize if you don't finish first in a race. God wants us to look at His business like Abraham did. We need to do what God told us the first time. When we don't let God take His time to do what He wants in our lives, then we don't finish the race.

QUESTION: If I asked you to run to the other side of the state, how far do you think you would get before you quit?

Not finishing what God told us to do is called shrinking back. We don't have to do this, because God is also faithful to give us whatever we need—even more energy and strength. We just don't get anything for not finishing God's race.

c. Being Sure About God

God wants you to be sure that you know that what you do for Him is good and it has rewards.

QUESTION: How can we be sure of what we feel God wants us to do?

(1) Testing

One way is to test what He wants us to do. That's what the Bible tells us to do. God said that we need to give back to Him ten percent of what He gives us: He will bless us if we do. That's like someone giving you ten bananas, and then you give them back just one of the bananas. God said test me in this. This means that we will do what He says without being stingy, and see if God does something great. But we don't ever want to tempt Him. This is when you do something God wants you to do, but you do it all for you—not God. This will get you into big trouble.

QUESTION: What are some ways people tempt God?
(There are a lot of answers to this question. Doing something once or twice, then giving up is a big one.)

QUESTION: One thing we must know: God will never tell us to do something that goes against His _____.
(His Bible, or written Word)

This is the very best way to know if God really told us to do something or not.

(2) God Moves

You always want to know if God really told you to do something. If God's Word says something is all right, then try it out. Maybe you thought God told you to be a preacher. You want to do what God says, but you are terrified to get up on Sunday morning and give the sermon. If so, then it is doubtful that God told you that. If God gives you faith to be a preacher, then He will take any fears away. Remember that God will always put the tools in your toolbox to do a job. He will also give you the faith to do it.

QUESTION: Has God told you something that He wants you to do? How can you test it?

d. Will God Do Anything For You?

READ: John 14:14

Does this really mean that if I ask God for anything that He will do it? If not, then what does this scripture mean?

Look closely at John 14:13 and you will see the answer to this question. God will do anything for you that helps Him get His work done. He will do anything, so long as it's good for Him and the people that will go to heaven someday. God will not make purple cows fly across your bedroom just because you ask Him to do it. But remember how He made Balaam's donkey talk? That must have been really weird, but it helped God get his work done.

3. Conclusion

- a. Do you have faith? Will you have faith?
- b. Will you do what God asks of you?
- c. Will you believe and do it even when it gets hard?
- d. Call the children to belief

Consider if anyone wants to be filled with the Holy Spirit. If any of the children want this, then have the others pray while you pray. Stress how important it is that they pray for their classmate, and that this is a great opportunity to use faith.

This is also a good opportunity to pray for any sick and unsaved loved ones.

After Class:

Bible quiz: Prepare some questions for after the ministry time that you can use for a Bible quiz. Be sure not to make the questions too difficult. Start them out easy and progressively let your questions get somewhat harder. You can even use what they learned in this lesson. If you are going to do this, then tell them at the beginning of the lesson for awesome attentiveness! Split your class, making sure that you *don't* get all of the "brains" on one team. If you have an uneven group, make sure that the odd person is on the weaker team. Pick captains for each team. Have all the team members give their answers to the captain so that the captain is the only one answering. This cuts confusion. Choose a team to start with, and ask the first question. Give the team a set time to work out their answer. If they get the answer right, then give them a point. If they are wrong, give the other team a chance to "steal" the point. If they answer correctly, then give them the point. If not, then hold the point over to the next question. Whoever gets the next question right gets both points. Alternate back and forth to each team while asking the questions. Go to a predetermined amount of points: 10, 15, etc.

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