Jesus Curriculum

Lesson 7 John 6:28-29; Hebrews 11:1-6; Mark 9:23 February 16, 2020

What is the Work?

Introduction

Tightrope walker Charles Blondin performed death-defying feats, once even walking across Niagara Falls. During one of his stunts, he asked his audience to raise their hands if they had faith in his ability to successfully walk across while pushing a wheelbarrow. Every hand shot up. He then asked if anyone would like to ride in the wheelbarrow while he pushed them across. No volunteers.

In our text today, we see New and Old Testament Christians not only proclaiming their faith in their creator but displaying it, even when tested. Faith in the unseen is our job as Christians. We have some evidence, but that evidence won't answer every one of our questions or concerns. That's when faith steps in. We must believe in Christ and what He has said. We must take the Bible at its word, not picking and choosing the parts that sound easy. We have to see the value of our possession and consider it as more than this current world.

In the book of James, it says that faith without works is dead. If you have faith, then show it by stepping out and serving God and those He's put in your path. He asks us to serve Him even when it's hard. Even when we question His decisions, we must trust that He has our good in mind and that he cares for us.

Memory verse: "Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent."—John 6:29

Pray and read John 6:28-29; Hebrews 11:1-6; and Mark 9:23.

What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

What do the passages say?

(Hebrews 11:6)

1.	What was the question asked of Jesus? (John 6:28)
2.	What does Jesus say is the work of God? (John 6:29)
3.	What is faith? (Hebrews 11:1)
4.	What is it that we understand by faith? (Hebrews 11:3)
5.	What happens to Abel due to his faith? (Hebrews 11:4)
6.	By faith, what took place in Enoch's life? (Hebrews 11:5)
7.	Why is it impossible to please God without faith?

8.	What is Jesus' response when the boy's father says, "if you can"? (Mark 9:23)

What do the passages mean?

1. If you continue from John 6:29, the passage tells of the crowd asking Jesus for a miracle and a sign. Why did people want a sign? (John 20:24-29). Why do you think the signs Jesus had already performed were not satisfactory to them?

2. Hebrews 11 is often called "The Hall of Faith" because of all the people listed who showed remarkable faith in God. In your own words, what is the reason for this list of Old Testament characters? (You can use Hebrews 6:11-12 as an aide)

3.	Why is it impossible to please God without faith? (James 2:14-26)

4. How are belief, hope, and faith similar?

Applying the passages

1. Jesus said to Thomas, "Blessed are those who have seen and yet have believed." Like the tightrope walker, Jesus wants you to not only believe in Him but put your life in His capable hands even when it looks terrifying. What are areas in your life that you are keeping from God, and trying to control yourself?

2. In its purest form, Christianity is simple—have faith in Jesus, who He says He is, and what He accomplished for us. Yet sometimes it is hard to have faith in something we can't see. In what areas do you have doubts or questions about your faith? Talk to someone today about what you're thinking and feeling. 1 Peter 5:7 says to "cast all your cares upon him; for he cares for you." Cast your anxiety, hurt, fears, etc. on God. He wants to draw near to you.

3. Christians in the Bible showed faith in promises to come during many persecutions and trials. How have you responded in hard times? What part does faith play in these trials?