

New Life Vineyard

Pathway into Discipleship



The Key to Faith

Key Verse

Hebrews 12:1-2

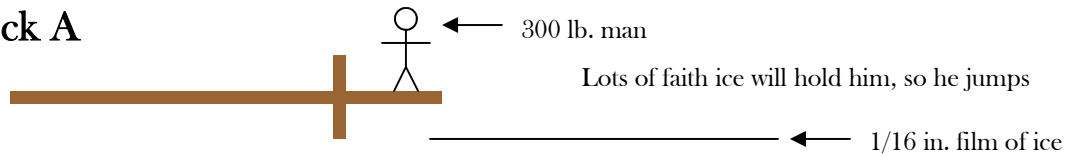
'Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. ²Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.'

Luke 17:5-6 says, “⁵The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’ ⁶He replied, ‘If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.’” Many people think they need more faith, yet Jesus makes it clear here that a small amount of faith can accomplish much. The important point with faith is not how much you have, but what is your faith in? The object of our faith is what is really important.

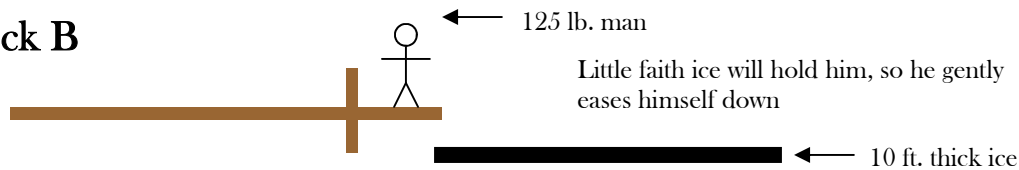
1. What does Hebrews 12:2 say we should focus on?
2. Have you ever been disappointed by putting your trust in an untrustworthy object? Would it have made a difference if you had put even more trust in that untrustworthy object?
3. Jesus is trustworthy. When we place our faith in Him, we are placing our faith in the one who is the author and perfecter of our faith. Is Jesus worthy of your trust?

Consider the following diagram:

Dock A



Dock B



The 300 pound man goes swimming. It doesn't matter that he had a lot of faith. His faith was in an untrustworthy object.

The 125 pound man stands solidly on the ice. He didn't have much faith, but he had enough to step out onto the ice. It held him because it was a trustworthy object of his faith, not because of how much faith he had.

4. Look up Matthew 14:22-23. Why could Peter walk on water? Why did he sink? What determines whether you stand or sink in the midst of life's storms?

Questions for Review

1. Hebrews 11:1 tells us what faith is. Give a practical illustration of how this might apply to your life.
2. Hebrews 11:6 says, "And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." Remember, the biblical synonym for faith is trust, not just belief. Why is it so important to trust God? What is it that we are trusting Him with?

3. Hebrews 11:6 goes on to say that God “is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” If people seek Him and God promises to reward them, what does He reward them with?

4. Hebrews 12:1 tells us that we have a “cloud of witnesses.” Read chapter eleven of Hebrews and see who some of these witnesses were. Is there anyone whose faith stands out for you? Why?

5. What or who do you have your faith in? Why?

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Leader's Guide and Related Resources

Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to help new believers understand the role of faith in their daily lives. People still mistakenly get caught up with how much faith they have or don't have. The important issue is whether or not the object of our faith is trustworthy—and Jesus is!

Answers to Questions

Page 1 & 2

1. We need to fix our eyes on Jesus. Spending time with Him regularly helps us to keep our focus on the Lord and not on our daily trials.
2. The amount of faith we have is irrelevant when it is placed in an untrustworthy object—like the film of ice in the diagram.
3. Be prepared if due to the trials of life, a new believer says, “I’m not sure Jesus is worthy of my trust.” Don’t be threatened by this. Read John 16:33, Romans 5:1-5 and Matthew 28:20. These verses say that we **WILL** have tribulation, but the Lord will use it to build character into us, and Jesus promises to always be with us.
4. Peter walked on water when he focused on and trusted in Jesus. When he looked at his circumstances and took his eyes off of Jesus, he sank. Today we still can rise above our trials by “fixing our eyes on Jesus.”

Answers to Review Questions

1. Good answers should focus on the assurance we have in Jesus.
2. Like any parent, God is pleased when we trust Him and obey Him. Every commandment in Scripture has a two-fold purpose—to protect us and to provide for us. We are trusting Him with our daily lives.
3. When we seek Him, God rewards us by revealing Himself to us. For those who really want to know the Lord, this is a cool promise!
4. Make sure they understand the faith of the person or people they mention from Hebrews 11. Their answer should focus on the fact that those people all trusted God in the midst of great trials.
5. Hopefully, they include Jesus in their answer. Jesus is worthy of our trust.

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