

Explore It

FOR LEADERS

SESSION
06

A LIVING FAITH

📖 Hebrews 11:1 What is faith?

📖 Mark 10:17-31 The rich man and the Kingdom of God

Please refer to the Introduction document for more details

Ask children to bring paper and pens for this session.

Three leaders could have some simple costumes to act out the role of Jesus, a rich man and a narrator.

Start it

Memory Game.

Set Up: Place 15 objects on a tray. Ask the children to put their hands on their head/fold their arms (so you can see they are not writing anything down!). Reveal the tray and give the children one minute to memorise the objects. When the time is up, give them a set amount of time (maybe 1 to 2 minutes) to write down as many objects as they can remember. Depending on your group, make it easier or harder by adjusting the number of objects or time. Reveal each object and ask children to check on their list. Find out who was able to remember the most items!

🗣️ **Say:** How challenging did you find it to remember the objects?

Give time for response and discussion.

Even though you had just seen the objects on the tray, it wasn't easy to remember what they all were.

Share screen: Display Hebrews 11:1 'Faith means being sure of the things we hope for and knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.' (NCV)

Ask: What do you think this means? What things do you know are real even though you can't see them? (wind, oxygen, love, electricity etc.)

Give time for response and discussion.

🗣️ **Say:** Faith is believing God watches over us, cares for us and hears our prayers. Some people find it really difficult to have faith in something they cannot see or understand. As Christians, there are some things we will never fully understand, and it is our faith which keeps us going.

Sing It

The words of this upbeat song say, 'I know you'll always be with me every day, your Spirit in me showing me the way'. It reminds us we have a God who is good to us! Sing this song with your group.

'God, You're Good to Me' (Vineyard Churches)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GzZiwHjkgOU>

Tell It

Here are the verses of Mark 10:17-31 (ICB) presented as a script for three leaders (Jesus, the rich man, narrator) to have a conversation in which the children are the listening disciples. Jesus and the rich man will need to do a little acting!

Share screen: Display the words of the disciples and ask the children to say them aloud when you cup your hand to your ear at the appropriate time in the story.

Narrator: Jesus started to leave, but a man ran to him and fell on his knees before Jesus.

Rich Man: Good teacher, what must I do to get the life that never ends?

Jesus: Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commands: 'You must not murder anyone. You must not be guilty of adultery. You must not steal. You must not tell lies about your neighbour in court. You must not cheat. Honour your father and mother.'

Rich Man: Teacher, I have obeyed all these commands since I was a boy.

Narrator: Jesus looked straight at the man and loved him.

Jesus: There is still one more thing you need to do. Go and sell everything you have and give the money to the poor. You will have a reward in heaven. Then come and follow me.

Narrator: He was very sad to hear Jesus say this, and he left. The man was sad because he was very rich. Then Jesus looked at his followers and said:

Jesus: How hard it will be for those who are rich to enter the kingdom of God!

Narrator: The followers were amazed at what Jesus said. But he said again:

Jesus: My children, it is very hard to enter the kingdom of God! And it will be very hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. It would be easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle!

Narrator: The followers were even more amazed and said to each other:

Disciples: Then who can be saved?

Jesus: For people this is impossible. But for God all things are possible.

Disciples: We left everything to follow you!

Jesus: I tell you the truth. Everyone who has left his home, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or fields for me and for the Good News will get a hundred times more than he left. Here in this world he will have more homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and fields. And with those things, he will also suffer for his belief. But in the age that is coming he will have life forever. Many who are first now will be last in the future. And those who are last now will be first in the future.

Ask the children to spend some time thinking about what God might be saying to us through this story.

I wonder:

- What does it mean to be rich?
- Is it wrong to be rich?
- Why didn't the man want to follow Jesus?
- How do we know Jesus is real?
- What Jesus meant when he said, 'it will be very hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God. It would be easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle!'
- How do we show God we love him more than anything else?

💬 **Say:** Without God, Jesus explained, it is impossible to have eternal life. We have to make God the focus of our lives and have faith that he will change us to what he wants us to be.

Action It

Explain to the children how important it is that we develop our faith in God, not just when we come to church or just when we meet together with other Christians, but so that our faith in God becomes part of all we do. We should get into regular habits which help us develop our relationship with Jesus. Share the Explore It ideas and talk about how we can use some of these ideas to develop habits to help us grow our faith in God.

'Thinking outside the box' is a metaphor for thinking from a new perspective.

Ask the children to draw a 2x2 grid on a piece of paper leaving some space around the outside. (It would be good to have an example ready to show them.) Or you could do this discussion activity together using the whiteboard.

- ➔ In the box on the top left, write or draw ways you show or have shown faith in God.
- ➔ In the top right box, write or draw ways God has shown his love for you personally.
- ➔ In the bottom left box, write or draw ways God has shown his love for the world.
- ➔ In the bottom right box, write or draw ways to say sorry to God and ask for help with the times you have struggled to have faith.
- ➔ Outside of the box, write or draw ways you could 'step out of the box' and show your faith in God in a new way.

Pray It

- **Say:** Some people find it really difficult to have faith in something they cannot see or understand. Faith is believing God watches over us, cares for us and hears our prayers. As Christians, there are some things we will never fully understand and it is our faith which keeps us going.

Pray together.

Explore It

Remember to share the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.