



# GOSPEL DAILY DEVOTIONAL

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A MINISTRY OF GRACE CHAPEL

For Families

## FAITH: CLINGING TIGHT TO THE UNSEEN

Start with prayer, then ask...



### DISCUSSION QUESTION:

What does it mean when you trust in someone? What makes a person trustworthy or reliable so you can put your trust in them?



**READ TOGETHER:** Hebrews 11:1–2 and Matthew 14:22–33



### DISCUSSION QUESTION:

How does the Hebrews passage we read describe faith?

## DIGGING DEEPER

In the Bible, the word “faith” doesn’t mean just believing in something in your head or saying that you believe in something. It means showing you believe it by the way you live. It doesn’t just mean “believe,” it means “trust.” Just like you trust your parents to take care of you, or you trust that your teachers are telling you what is true, or we trust that the engineers who built a bridge did it right so it won’t collapse into the river when we drive our cars over it!

Hebrews says faith is having confidence in what God has promised us and following what He tells us to do because we trust that what He says is right. If we kept reading the rest of Hebrews 11, we would see tons of examples of that from the Old Testament.

- *Noah, who listened to God’s voice and built an ark when everyone around him thought he was crazy.*
- *Abraham, who listened to God’s voice and left his whole family and everything he knew to go to the brand new place God told him to go.*
- *Joshua, who listened to God’s voice and just walked around Jericho’s walls with his army, blowing trumpets instead of fighting them.*
- *And many, many more stories of people who listened to God’s Word and did what He said even though it may have made them look silly to the rest of the world.*

But what happened with those guys? Noah's family was saved from the flood, Abraham became the father of many nations, and the walls of Jericho miraculously tumbled down without their army having to fight. When we trust God and follow what He says, amazing things can happen!

Faith isn't just about what we believe, it's about what we do. Hebrews says that "by faith" these heroes of the Old Testament did these amazing things. Because faith isn't just about believing in Jesus, it's about trusting Him enough to follow Him.

Hebrews also says that some of those Old Testament heroes went through some really hard times. But "by faith" God gave them the strength to endure.

Faith doesn't necessarily promise we will be saved from all the storms of life, but that Jesus will carry us through them. Jesus told His disciples that if they had even the tiniest bit of faith, just the size of a mustard seed, they could move mountains (Matthew 17:20). But what about when things get scary, when the storms of life rage all around us? What do we do then?

When Jesus was walking on the water to His disciples (Matthew 14:22-33), there was a terrible storm all around them. Storms on the Sea of Galilee can be fierce, and they usually come up out of nowhere. But Jesus was able to walk on the water through that storm. Peter, because he had faith in Jesus, got out of the boat and walked toward Him. He was able to walk on water too! When we walk by faith, amazing things can happen!



**DISCUSSION QUESTION:**

If you were in the middle of storm on a lake, would you have stepped out to try and walk on the water? Would you have been scared?

Peter was afraid when he noticed the wind. He got scared and started to sink. That's what can happen when we look around at all the scary things in the world around us. We start to lose faith, we start to lose hope, we start to sink. We can even start to feel like we're drowning.

But you know what? Jesus is right there through all our storms. And He is more powerful than any storm we will ever go through. When Peter started to sink, Jesus was still walking on the water. Because Jesus was stronger than the storm.

And Jesus never left Peter's side. Jesus was right there beside him. Even though Peter got scared, even though he was sinking, he knew exactly who to call out to. "Lord! Save me!" he cried. And immediately, Jesus reached out His hand and caught Peter and pulled him up out of the raging water.



**READ TOGETHER:** 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

## APPLY IT TO LIFE

Whenever we struggle, whenever we have doubt or worry or fear, whenever we start to sink, Jesus is right there, waiting to grab hold of us. Immediately. All we have to do is cry out to Him. When Jesus asked Peter, "Why did you doubt?", He wasn't lecturing him for not having enough faith. He was simply saying, "You never need to doubt because I'm right here with you. Always. You can trust in me."

**PARENT STORY:**

Describe a time when you were struggling with doubt or fear and God gave you faith.

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

Practice learning what it means to trust in God to take care of us by doing a *trust fall* with your family. In the same way you have to trust your family to catch you in a trust fall, we have to trust in God to catch us when we fall and pull us up when we start to sink.

**PRAY TOGETHER:**

*Dear God, thank you for being there for us always, in every storm. Help us to trust in you when life gets scary or hard. In Jesus's name, Amen..*

**MEMORIZE TOGETHER:**

“Now faith is confidence in what we hope for an assurance about what we do not see”  
– Hebrews 11:1