

3-6 | August 10

Bible Story: Noah • *Genesis 6–9*

Key Question: When is it hard to trust God?

Bottom Line: You can trust God even when you don't understand.

Monthly Memory Verse: *Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being sure of what we do not see.* Hebrews 11:1 (NirV)

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- ☐ Offering Container
- ☐ 2 Large Containers
- ☐ 8 Stuffed Animals
- ☐ Floor Tape

Pray for your group before they arrive. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Reflect on a time when God gave you courage when you faced a fear. Ask God to strengthen the kids in your group with courage when they face their own fears. Pray they will remember that God is bigger than anything that makes them afraid! Ask God to give them faith like Joshua and Caleb, even when others around them doubt.

What You Do:

- Welcome kids by name as they arrive with a high-five, fist bump, or a wave.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Give each team a basket and four stuffed animals.
- Designate starting lines for both teams with floor tape.
- Direct a kid from each team to stand a few feet away from their team's starting line with the basket.
- Instruct the teams to line up behind their starting line.
- Direct the first kid in line to stand with their back facing the kid with the basket.
- Give the first kid in line the four stuffed animals. Instruct them to hold one of the stuffed animals and place the other three at their feet.
- Explain the Toss Challenge:
 - Challenge the kid at the start line to toss the stuffed animals over their shoulder, one at a time, aiming for the basket.
 - The basket holder should try to catch them.
 - If the team doesn't successfully get their stuffed animals in the basket, their team can quickly retrieve the stuffed animals and keep going.
 - Retrieve the four stuffed animals and give the next kid in line a turn.
- The team that successfully catches all of their stuffed animals first wins!
- Play until every kid gets a chance to throw the stuffed animals.

What You Say:

[Transition] "If you think it was a challenge to toss stuffed animals into a basket behind your back, wait until you hear about a man in our true story from the Bible today, who had to trust God to do something really EPIC! Let's go!"

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- If any kids aren't comfortable tossing over their shoulders, they can toss underhanded while facing forward.
- Celebrate every kid's attempt to toss the stuffed animals, so all kids feel included and engaged.

Lead your group to watch today's video lesson.

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need:

- ☐ Paper
- ☐ Pens or Pencils

What You Do:

- Give each kid a sheet of paper and a pen or pencil.
- Ask the kids to write or draw a situation when it would be hard for them to trust God.
- To get the kids started, share an example:
 - *"A friend stops talking to you and starts hanging out with another group of kids. You don't know why, and it hurts. It could feel hard to trust that God has a good plan when you feel left out and alone."*
- Encourage kids to share (if comfortable) why the situation they chose would be challenging.
- **[Make It Personal] (Share an age-appropriate story from your own life when trusting God was difficult. Was there a truth about who God is, or a story from the Bible that encouraged you?)**
- Explain the Folding Challenge:
 - Ask kids to estimate how many times they can fold their paper in half before they can no longer fold it.
 - Instruct the kids to write their guesses on the back of the piece of paper.
 - Each kid is to fold their paper one fold at a time, counting each one. (Most will reach a max of seven folds.)
- Celebrate the closest guessers and every kid's participation!
- Discuss:
 - How might tough times shake our trust in God?
 - What can we do when we don't understand why something is happening?
 - How does trusting God help us grow stronger like the folded paper?
- Encourage the kids:
 - *To take the folded paper home as a reminder that even when things don't make sense, God is with you!*
 - *Just like the paper got tougher, your faith grows stronger when you trust God!*
 - *Remember, God is good and He is still at work! When things are confusing, trust God one step at a time.*
 - *Pray—share your feelings with God and ask God to help you have faith!*
 - *Read the Bible and remember who God is and what God has done!*

Inclusive Pro Tips:

- If a kid doesn't want to share, allow them to listen and reflect instead.

- Consider pairing the kids up to fold the paper—one can hold it while the other presses it down. Instead of folding the paper, kids who are struggling can also count every time another kid folds theirs.

3. Verses to Take with You

What You Need:

Bibles

- ☐ Bible x1
- ☐ Prepared Origami Boat Example
- ☐ “Origami Boat” Activity Page
- ☐ “Origami Instructions” Activity Page x4
- ☐ Pens or Pencils

What You Do:

- Look up Hebrews 11:1 and read aloud having the children repeat after you.
- Write the verse down on the white board.
- Talk through any possibly unfamiliar words or phrases, focusing on the meaning of the verse.
- Discuss Hebrews 11:1.
 - What does this verse tell us about faith?
 - When have you had to trust God without knowing how things would turn out?
 - How does this verse help you trust God more?
- Give each kid a pen (or pencil) and a triangle from the “Origami Boat” Activity Page.
- Show the kids your origami boat example.
- Give each kid the “Origami Instructions” Activity Page and walk them through the folding process.
 - If a kid is struggling, encourage them to work with another kid.
 - Explain each step one at a time, waiting for each kid to finish before explaining the next step.
- Once everyone’s finished, encourage them to write “Hebrews 11:1” on the origami boat.
- Encourage the kids to use their boat as a Bible bookmark for Hebrews 11:1.
- Share with the kids:
 - *Noah had faith and obeyed God even before he saw the flood.*
 - *Faith is trusting in what you can’t see because of what you can see.*
 - *God is good, He is always working for good, so we can trust God no matter what!*

Inclusive Pro Tips

- Some kids might prefer writing or drawing instead of folding. Allow them to design a boat on the paper triangle instead!

4. **Pray and Dismiss**

What You Say:

“God, thank You for always keeping Your promises! Thank You for loving us, guiding us and caring for us, no matter what we’re going through. We want to trust You with every part of our lives—our family, friends, school, sports teams, worries, and dreams. Help us to remember that You are always faithful, even when we are going through something scary and we don’t know what’s ahead. Give us unshakeable faith to always know that we can trust You, even when we don’t understand. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, invite kids to share the Memory Verse, Hebrews 11:1!