

Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2023

Class Curriculum - The Way of Salvation

Age - Junior Campers

Tuesday - Hearing & Believing: Faith

Summary

1. Subject: Hearing & Believing - Faith
2. Scripture: Romans 10:17
3. Grade/Level: Junior Campers
4. Objective: Understand that it is necessary to believe the gospel in order to be saved
5. Time Allotment: 1 Hour

Prayer: Don't forget to begin and end your class with a prayer! If possible, have a camper lead one or both of these prayers.

Story

10-15 minutes

If you would like to use a character study from scripture to begin class, an example is provided below. If this story is already integrated into your week of camp, feel free to use a different narrative from scripture that examines repentance.

Jonah and the Ninevites

Jonah and the Ninevites is one of the best examples of the importance of "hearing" in scripture. Using the book of Jonah, recount the story of Jonah preaching to the Ninevites to your class. A brief summary is listed below: please read the full account yourself and teach the story at an age-appropriate level to your class.

- Jonah was asked to preach to the people of Nineveh. These people were known to be mean, violent, and unfriendly towards Jews like Jonah

- Jonah didn't want to and tried to go to Tarsus instead
- God sent a storm to wreck the ship, causing Jonah to be thrown overboard to spare the others on board. He is swallowed by a whale and spat out after three days
- Jonah then goes to Nineveh and preaches about God
- The people, despite their reputation and sinful lifestyle, repent completely and immediately
- Because they believe the message, they are saved from destruction

This story highlights the importance of hearing the gospel. It is easy to assume that if we make ourselves vulnerable and evangelize, we will not be received well. This story shows that even the "worst" type of people can be very receptive to God's word and that we cannot be afraid to talk about God.

Lesson

Discussion: What is faith?

10-15 Minutes

Guided Discussion: Ask the question, "What is Faith?" or "What does it mean to believe in something?" Do they understand the difference between "hope", "trust", "believe", and "faith"? Ask for more examples of each of these things. Feel free to challenge them with some age-appropriate, difficult questions asking them to identify different scenarios of each keyword.

Ask your campers to give an example of something they know for a fact, despite not seeing or experiencing the fact firsthand. Some examples might be, "I know my parents got married" or "I know the other campers are in class right now too". Help your campers understand that all such knowledge comes from one of two sources:

- Reliable information that explains past events
- A reliable source that describes future events

In order to believe something despite not being present to witness or experience it, we need one of those two things. Either information that stands the test of time, or a source that we trust. When applied to our faith, this could look like any of the following scenarios:

- We believe in God because the Bible has stood through every test and is proven to be reliable in what it says.
- We believe that there will be a second coming of Jesus and a judgment day because we believe in God and trust His word.

Scripture

- a. Hebrews 11:1
 - a. This is a verse that identifies some of the subtle differences between “hope”, and “faith”. Tie this in with the concept of conviction, which is a faith that is built to last.
- b. Romans 10:17
 - a. This is the key verse for the lesson. Campers must understand that faith comes from hearing, and hearing comes from the word of Christ. Jesus came to this earth to provide teaching that, when understood, would lead to faith in the eternal God.

Activity/Illustration

Remaining Time

“Telephone”

Have your campers get into a single-file line. Whisper a secret or silly phrase to the camper at one end of the line, and have them whisper the same phrase to the camper next to them. Have each camper whisper the phrase one by one until it reaches the end of the line. Once it reaches the end, have the final camper say out loud the phrase they heard. Typically, the phrase will have changed during the transmission; if it is the same as the original, have a prize ready for the class.

Application: It is important that we hear clearly (and repeatedly) in order to make sure a message is accurate. Similarly, we need to make sure we are clearly hearing the word of God by reading the Bible, and exposing ourselves to it repeatedly so it isn't just a “single whisper”. Additionally, after you hear the phrase, you repeat it. Life moves around you every day, and you're always making decisions that are rooted in what you believe. If you haven't heard the word of God clearly, you might start repeating the “wrong phrase”, which might hurt the people who listen to you.

“Drawing Together”

This activity can be done with a large sheet of paper, a whiteboard, a chalkboard, or any other large writing surface. Have in your mind, or already drawn out, a simple drawing with several components (for example, a green animal with a Lion's head, a frog's legs, a squirrel's tail, and a rhino's horn). Do not tell the campers what to draw, but give each camper a single characteristic of the drawing. Then give them a set amount of time to work together and produce a drawing. Compare the campers' creation with the original drawing and see how close they are.

For added fun, pick a camper or a counselor to be the “drawing”. Without telling the campers, give them each a characteristic of the camper or counselor in question (i.e. brown hair, straight hair, short hair, freckles, etc) and have them work together to produce their drawing, then compare the drawing with the person.

Application: it is important that we hear all of the information in order to understand what is going on. Partial information can lead to confusion and misunderstandings. It is equally important that we hear and believe the whole word of God. Only reading certain sections or books, or not believing certain passages as truth, can only lead to confusion and misunderstanding.