



KIDS HOUSE PARTY

PARENT GUIDE
June 07

Life App Definition

Faith — trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

Main Idea

As the Old Testament heroes looked forward in faith, we can look backward in faith and learn from their stories. We can believe in Jesus because of what we see around us and what we learn from the experience of God's faithfulness throughout history. We hope that kids will start to understand the faith they can have in Jesus.

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).

Bottom Line

You can know Jesus even though you've never seen Him.

Small-Group Discussion

Review the story and use the following questions to reinforce the lesson learned from the story.

- Is faith different for us today than it was for the heroes we just read about? Explain why it is or is not. If we can't see Jesus, how do we know He's real?
- What would you tell someone who doesn't believe that God or Jesus exists?
- What do we see around us that helps us know God is real?
- When you have doubts about your faith, who can you talk to?

Object Lesson

The following activity is intended to help your children apply the lesson that was learned in today's House Party. Complete the activity as a family by following the steps below.

Supplies Needed

- Paper
- Writing utensil
- Colors/markers
- Small piece of paper

Activity

- In this activity, you will help your children understand what it means to have faith in something they can't see.
- Help your children look up the memory verse, Hebrews 11:1. (The NIRV is usually in terms they can understand.)
- Say the verse together several times.
- Give each family member a piece of paper and a writing utensil.
- Instruct them to write the word "WIND" really big across the page.
- They can also decorate the paper if they wish.
- Now walk them through the steps below to make a paper fan.
 - Start at one end of the paper.
 - Fold a one-inch crease.
 - Fold another one-inch crease in the opposite direction.
 - Repeat this until the entire paper is folded.
 - Take one end of the folded paper and pinch it together. This will leave the other end open.
 - Tape the pinched end together. You can also just staple this section or tie a string around it, whichever means you have available.
 - Fan out the open end.
- Show your children how to use the fan.
- Give your children a small piece of paper.
- Ask them to place the piece of paper on the floor and use the fan to move it around.
- Share with them that according to our memory verse, faith is trusting that something will happen even though we can't yet see it happening. Just because we can't see something doesn't mean it isn't real. We can't see the wind or touch the wind or taste the wind. We can only hear it and feel it. Yet

no one doubts that the wind exists. In many ways, faith is like the wind; we can't see faith or touch faith or taste faith. We can only hear it, and sometimes we feel it—all through the stories of those who came before us. When you know how Jesus has affected others' lives, you can see how He can work in your life, too! **You can know Jesus even though you've never seen Him.**

Prayer

Take a moment and pray with your children. Thank God for the stories of those who came before us, and ask Him to help us to trust Him always.

Dear God,

Thank You for the faith stories of those who came before us. You have given us some amazing examples of faith. Help us to trust You the way Noah, Abraham, Moses, and others did. Most of all, help us to keep our eyes on Jesus and believe He's with us even though we can't see Him. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen.