

Std: 8

Chapter 3

Church: The community of believers

Objective:

To understand the concept of faith and its significance in religious and personal contexts.

To explore examples of faith from religious texts and personal experiences.

To encourage reflection on the role of faith in one's life.

Starter (10 min)

Narrate the story [‘The Child who Brought an Open Umbrella for Prayer’](#) (Place the cursor on the highlighted text and press ctrl to go to the Story)

Let’s take a moment to check our inner selves to see if the SEED of faith is still existing within us.

Note Teacher can share her personal experience if any at this instance.

Conclusion drawn from the story – True prayer needs unwavering belief even when things seem impossible

1. Introduction (10 min)

Begin with a brief discussion on foundational belief of the church based on bible passage Mt 16:13-19

2. Examples of faith from the bible (20 minutes)

Game – Bingo

[Bingo game details](#) (Place the cursor on the highlighted text and press ctrl to go to the game details)

Summarise how faith played a crucial role in the lives of these biblical characters and helped them to stay firm in spite of the challenges they encountered in their lives.

Define faith as belief, trust, and confidence in something or someone, especially without proof.

Ask students to reflect on moments in their lives when they had to exercise faith. Encourage them to share their experiences with the class (if comfortable) or jot them down in their notebooks.

3. Proclamation of Gospel leads to faith & Conversion is a necessary element of faith (15 minutes)

Reflect on the passage from Acts 2 “Peter addresses the crowd”

Encourage the students to summarise the learnings from the passage

Teacher can summarise the two most important messages from the passage –

- i) The proclamation of the gospel leads to faith
- ii) Conversion of heart is a necessary element for faith

4. Faith in Action (10 minutes):

Brainstorm ways in which faith can be demonstrated through actions.

Examples may include acts of kindness, forgiveness, and service to others. Discuss how faith motivates people to live according to their beliefs and values. (the life of the early Christians can be discussed to reinforce this idea)

5. Conclusion (10 minutes):

Summarize key points about faith discussed during the lesson.

Encourage students to think about how they can cultivate and strengthen their faith in their daily lives.

6. Homework/ Class activity

1. Give two cutouts of leaves for each child.
2. First leaf – A verse based on faith from the bible
3. Second leaf- One sentence on how faith influences our lives, thoughts & actions. (E.g. Faith can help manifest the blessings of God in our life)
4. These leaves can then be put together to make a ‘Tree of faith’

Thought for the day

Payer is asking for rain and faith is carrying an umbrella

Lesson Resources

The Child who Brought an Open Umbrella for Prayer

The rains failed again that year. It was the third year in succession when there was no rain. The crops had disappeared, trees had lost their leaves years ago and stood out like silhouettes of cactus on the dusty horizon. Where once flowed clean, fresh water from the nearby mountains, there was now a bed of clay, cracked in a checkerboard pattern with gaps as wide as a foot. No one knew what had happened to the birds except for the vultures that circled the town, looking for a carcass or two of an animal that was left dying.

People walked around like sticks, sans flesh, surviving on whatever ration was brought to them by trucks, distributed by charities, located in far-away lands.

Desperate for help, the people of the village held a meeting under a big banyan tree that was as old as the village. “Let us pray”, said an elderly man. “Only God can help us now”

The faithful decided to hold their prayer in the open, late that night, under the open sky, away from the town. The men gathered in a field by the river.

As the men begin to pray, a child came running from the town, holding high an open umbrella over his head. Huffing for breath, he stood in the back row, umbrella still unfurled. The men could not but help turn around and wonder what was going on. Some were curious; others were annoyed because the umbrella created space between their shoulders where there should be none.

At last, the elderly man admonished the child. “Why did you bring the umbrella, O foolish child! Don’t you see there is no rain and we have come here to pray for rain?”

“Yes”, said the child. “I came to pray too. I am certain my prayer will be answered and it will rain. I have complete faith in God. That is why I brought my umbrella.”

BINGO (House) GAME

Write the name of the following characters randomly in a 4*3 grid

- 1) Moses 2) Abraham 3) Noah 4) The centurion 5) Elijah 6) Mary
7) Peter 8) Paul 9) Job 10) Joseph 11) Esther 12) Daniel

Teachers should prepare different grid for each child before the class

e.g.

Moses	Peter	Elijah	Daniel
Abraham	Noah	Joseph	Mary
Paul	The centurion	Esther	Job

As the teacher reads out a sentence explaining the character, the child has to cross out the name of the character in the grid.

- 1) The man who parted the Red Sea on the command of God
- 2) The man who was ready to sacrifice his son on God’s command
- 3) The man who built the ark even when there were no signs of a single dark cloud in the sky
- 4) The Roman officer who believed that his servant could be healed by the command of Jesus
- 5) His faith moved Lord to answer by fire

- 6) She kept faith in God's promise and is a model of faith for the Catholic church
- 7) The apostle who walked on water
- 8) His encounter with the Jesus on the road to Damascus lead him to faith
- 9) In spite of the afflictions he had to incur he still trusted in God
- 10) He believed in the promises of God even when he was sold as a slave
- 11) Her trust in God helped her save her people, the Israelites
- 12) One of the men whose faith saved him from the lion's den

The winners would be the kids who complete the first line, second line and the third line at the earliest (as in housie)