

# I'm a Believer

**Bible Story:** I'm a Believer (Faith Is . . .) • *Hebrews 11:1—12:3*

**Bottom Line:** You can know Jesus even though you've never seen Him.

**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)

**Life App:** Faith—Trusting in what you can't see because of what you can see

**Basic Truth:** I can trust God no matter what.

## **Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Ask God to guide you as you plant the seeds that will set a foundation for your kids' faith in the future. Pray that you would have realistic expectations about what your kids can comprehend and internalize in their current phase. Ask God to help you help answer some of their questions in a way they can understand but to also help fuel their curiosity about Jesus and how to have a relationship with Him.*

### **1. Early Arriver**

*Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

#### **What You Do:**

- Ask kids to share things they trust will happen every day, every week, and every year.
- Some suggestions might be:
  - The sun will come up.
  - It will get dark.
  - The school bus will come.
  - My mom will hug me.
  - My coach will give me a high-five.
  - I will get a year older.
  - I will use the bathroom.
- As they name more and more events, challenge them to keep going without repeating anything that was previously mentioned.

## 2. Hidden

*Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body*

**What You Need:** Objects, lists of objects, timer

### What You Do:

- Hide different objects around the room before kids arrive.
- Divide the group into two teams.
- Tell the kids that you have hidden objects around the room and the team that finds the most items wins.
- Give each team a list of the hidden items and set a timer to your desired time.
- When you say, “Go,” kids start finding as many items as they can.
- When either time runs out or all of the items have been found, count to see which team found the most. Declare that team the winner!

### What You Say:

“Just because you couldn’t see the hidden objects, didn’t mean they weren’t there! You now know that they exist because you found them. **[Transition] Let’s go hear about Someone you’ve never seen but who really exists.**”

## **Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

### 1. Hero Matching Game

**[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]**

*Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group*

**What You Need:** “Faith Cards” Activity Page, “Descriptions” Activity Page

### What You Do:

- Guide kids to play a memory game.
- Mix the cards and lay them in a grid facedown.
- Instruct kids to take turns turning over any two cards.
- If the two cards match, they keep them, then they’re finished playing for the rest of the game.
- If the cards don’t match, they turn them back over, and it’s the next kid’s turn.

*Hint: Tell kids to pay extra attention to the background of each card, to make sure they actually have a match!*

- Continue playing until all of the cards are played. Make sure each kid has at least one set of matching cards.
- Next, ask the kids to place their cards in front of them, face up.
- Tell the kids that you will read a brief description of a Bible hero.
- Instruct them to look at their pictures to see who has the hero matching that description.
- End by encouraging kids to swap one of their cards with someone who has a different hero.
- Instruct the kids to take the cards home and place them in their room as a reminder of God’s promises.

**What You Say:**

“Great job matching the description to the hero! What did these heroes do? They believed in God’s promises. In other words, they had complete faith in God. They didn’t know exactly how those promises would come true, but they were willing to do some wild things because they had faith in God. They didn’t do amazing things on their own power, but through their faith and hope in God.

“Faith isn’t always easy! It isn’t always comfy or perfect! But we have these stories of people who came before us, and these stories can help us keep the faith ourselves. **[Make it Personal] (Share a faith story of someone in your life that has caused your personal faith to grow. Maybe it’s watching someone who continues to exhibit faith in spite of illness or difficult circumstances, or it’s someone who serves people unconditionally.) [Bottom Line] You can know Jesus even though you’ve never seen Him.**”

**\*2. What Do You See?****[Live for God | Application Activity]**

*Made to Explore: an activity that extends learning through hands on experimentation and discovery*

**What You Need:** “Optical Illusions” Activity Pages, “Spinner” circles (Activity Page), hole-punch, pencils, markers, rulers

**What You Do:**

- Pair kids up and give each pair an activity page.
- Instruct pairs to work together to answer the questions.
- When they’re finished, hand each pair a ruler to verify their answers.
- Then, tell kids they get to make their own optical illusion!
- Give each kid a “Spinner” circle cutout.
- Instruct the kids to color the pattern whatever colors they choose. Make sure kids know not to color too boldly over the black lines, as those need to be very obvious in order for the illusion to work.
- Explain that they need to color an alternating pattern of at least two different colors.
- As kids finish coloring, help them punch a hole in the center.
- Demonstrate for the group how to carefully insert a pencil into the hole.
- Then, hold the pencil between two hands and spin the circle to create the illusion that the spirals continually move.

**What You Say:**

“These optical illusions make us see them differently than they really are. You can rely on a ruler to help you measure and decide if what you’re seeing is correct or not. In the same way, you can rely on the stories of people who came before you to get to know God and Jesus. These stories help you see that God is really who He says He is. They also help you see and trust what God has already done, and continues to do for you through His Son, Jesus. **[Bottom Line] You can know Jesus even though you’ve never seen Him.**”

*Salvation Message:* This story and application lend themselves to a more in-depth conversation about what it means to follow Jesus. **[Make it Personal] (You may choose to talk about how**

**you became a follower of Jesus and what your relationship with Him means to you.)** The following key points can guide you as you share:

**God LOVED us.** Before we were even born, God loved us. But something called ‘sin’ separated us from Him. Sin is the stuff we do that’s wrong. Because God is perfect, sin keeps us from having a relationship with God.

**God GAVE us Jesus.** God GAVE us Jesus. Our sin keeps us from being with God, but God wanted a close relationship with us. That’s why God gave us His Son, Jesus. Jesus was the only way to fix our broken relationship with God. When Jesus gave up His life for us on the cross, He made a way for us to have a forever relationship with God.

**We BELIEVE in Jesus.** Believing simply means to trust. In order to accept God’s gift of grace, we believe that God loves us and made a way for us to have a relationship with Him now and forever.

**We RECEIVE the gift of eternal life.** That means we never have to be separated from God again. We get to be with Him forever. There is nothing we can do to lose our place in God’s family.

*(Note: Depending on what you know about your kids, it might be a good idea to simply “plant the seeds” and have a conversation about salvation without explicitly leading kids to take the step of faith. If a kid’s parents are already believers, they probably want to be present for the moment when their kid takes a step of faith. Use your judgment and your knowledge of your kids’ home lives when having this conversation.)*

### 3. Fan Verse

#### [Hear from God| Memory Verse Activity]

*Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing*

**What You Need:** “Wind” Activity Page, Bibles, markers, scissors, small pieces of paper, and decorating supplies *(optional)*

#### What You Do:

- Help kids look up Hebrews 11:1 using the tips below.

**Finding verses with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders:** Guide them to open their Bibles to the front and find the table of contents. *(Hold up a Bible opened to the table of contents to show the kids what the page looks like.)* When the kids find the table of contents, lead them to find Hebrews in the list under “New Testament.” When the kids find Hebrews, lead them to look at the page number beside the word. Explain that the number tells them on what page they can find Hebrews. Help the kids find the page. When they find Hebrews, explain that the big numbers on the page are the chapter numbers. Help them find chapter 11. Explain that the small numbers are verse numbers. Help them find verse 1 in chapter 11.

- Say the verse together several times.
- Then, pass out a “Wind” page to each kid.
- Give the kids time to color the verse and decorate it.
- When they’re finished, instruct them to cut around the edges.
- Give each kid a tongue depressor.
- Show the group how to attach the tongue depressor to their activity page to create a paddle-handled fan.
- Demonstrate to the group how to use the fan.
- End by passing out a small piece of paper to each kid.
- Ask kids to place the piece of paper on the floor and use their fan to move it around.

**What You Say:**

“According to our memory verse, faith is trusting that something will happen even though we can’t see it happening, yet. 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 sometime 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! **[Bottom Line]** **You can know Jesus even though you’ve never seen Him.**”

**Pray and Dismiss****[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

*Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application*

**What You Need:** Fans from “Fan Verse” activity

**What You Do:**

- Make sure kids have their fans from the “Fan Verse” activity.
- Ask kids to think about something they want to talk to God about. It could be anything from asking Him for help getting along with siblings over the summer to asking Him to help them have faith to believe in Jesus.
- Encourage kids to write or draw their prayer requests on the backs of their fans.
- Give the group a few seconds to pray silently for their requests.
- Close with the prayer below.

**What You Say:**

“Heavenly Father, thank You for the faith stories of those who came before us. Thank you for sending Your one and only Son to Earth to show us who You are. Help us to get to know Him more through the faith of others and the things we can see. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”