

# Unit 21: Early Responses to Jesus

**Unit Description:** As Jesus began His ministry of miracles and teachings, not everyone responded in the same way. Some rejected Jesus outright. Others were amazed by Jesus but didn't understand Him. But some came to place their faith in Him and worship Him for who He is: the Son of God.

**Big Picture Question:** How can we be saved? We are only saved through faith in Jesus.



## **SESSION 1: People Rejected Jesus**

Luke 4



## **SESSION 2: People Were Amazed by Jesus**

Luke 4



## **SESSION 3: Peter Worshiped Jesus**

Luke 5



## **SESSION 4: We Are Saved by Faith in Jesus**

Hebrews 11



UNIT 21 | SESSION 4

## WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH IN JESUS

HEBREWS 11

**KEY PASSAGE:**

Hebrews 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

How can we be saved? We are only saved through faith in Jesus.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:**

The Bible gives examples of people who had faith, but the true hero of the Bible is Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. We are saved from our sins by faith in Jesus.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



PREPARE

PREPARE YOUR HEART TO TEACH; PLAN THE SESSION



WELCOME

GREET KIDS AND OPEN THE SESSION



LEARN

TEACH KIDS THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL



LOVE

LEAD KIDS TO LOVE THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL



LIVE

LEAD KIDS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

## LEADER Bible Study

Faith is a common theme throughout the Bible. We may not find the word faith on every page; however, in nearly every description of what God expects of His people, there is at least an indication of faith. Throughout Scripture, we read that faith is the means by which God is pleased with His people as they chose to trust Him.

Hebrews 11 emphasizes the significance of faith by unpacking how God has been saving His people through faith from the beginning. From creation to the first family and on and on throughout the lives of individuals, tribes, and nations, God uses faith as the evidence of who belongs to His kingdom and the means by which He gives hope.

So, what exactly is faith? According to the author of Hebrews, “Faith is the reality of what is hoped for, the proof of what is not seen” (Heb. 11:1).

To be clear, this does mean that it is possible to have faith in something other than the truths of the Bible, the work of Christ, and the promises of God. We may place our faith in a future spouse, job, experience, or accomplishment; however, according to the Bible, only one object of faith is truly saving before God, and that is Jesus.

What is the object of your faith? Do you

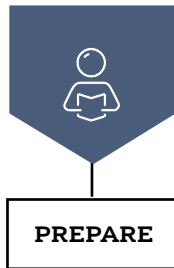
have hope in the unseen promises of God? Does the object of your faith look more like a whimsical desire for your own good, or is it confidence in the wonderful work of a life-giving Savior? In the grand picture of life, there is no more important question than this because the object of your faith will most certainly determine the direction of your eternity.

The individuals described in Hebrews 11 put their faith in God’s promise of a coming Christ; therefore, their actions revealed their trust and dependence on the Lord. Ultimately, this produced faithfulness in their lives and blessing from God.

Hundreds of years from now, will your life be associated with this type of faith? Let the faith of Abraham, Sarah, Moses, and others inspire you to take risks in obedience to following Christ. Pray for a faith that actively trusts that God is who He says He is and holds tight to the confidence that God keeps His promises.

### TERMS TO KNOW

**Faith: the trustful human response to God’s self-revelation via His words and His actions. Faith yields in the believer a confidence or sense of assurance as he or she continues to trust God through His promises. (Heb. 11:1)**



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

## GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



**WELCOME**

### Activity Page

- “How Can We Please God?” activity page

### Session Starter (Option 1)

- dry erase board
- dry erase marker

### Session Starter (Option 2)

- large sheet of poster paper with Bible verse Hebrews 12:2
- sticky notes, 2 per group



**LEARN**

### Introduce the Session

- countdown video

### Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

### Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

### Tell the Bible Story

- “We Are Saved by Faith in Jesus” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

### Questions from Kids

- “Unit 21, Session 4” questions from kids video

### Missions Moment

- world map

### Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- “Without Faith (Hebrews 11:6)” song
- worship song of your choice (optional)
- index cards, 5 per pair
- blindfolds, 1 per pair



**LOVE**

### Review & Bible skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- world map



**LIVE**

### Activity Choice (Option 1)

- large craft sticks, 10
- cup

### Activity Choice (Option 2)

- Big Picture Question Poster
- dry erase board
- dry erase marker
- timer

### Journal and Prayer

- Journal Page
- “Hall of Faith” activity page



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “Do you have some incredible stories that your family or friends tell at special gatherings or holidays? Why are these stories so well remembered by your family or your friends?”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “How Can We Please God?” on the activity page.

**SAY** “Sometimes we might think God will only be happy with us if we do a lot of good things or try to be a better person. But the Bible teaches us that God is pleased when we trust Him by faith. In today’s Bible story, we will learn how faith in Jesus is the only way to please God.”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### OPTION 1: FAITH MATCH



Before the session, write the following names on a dry erase board: Abel, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Joseph, Moses, and Rahab.

Form the kids into two teams and explain that you will read a description and they must say who it matches to on the dry erase board. Award teams a point for each correct answer. Read the following descriptions or choose your own:

- Led the Israelites through the Red Sea
- Offered Isaac as a sacrifice
- Offered God the firstborn of his flock
- Built the ark and saved his family
- Hid the Israelite spies in Jericho
- Had a baby when she was very old
- Went from a slave to being a leader in Egypt

**SAY** “Each of the people we described are also mentioned in our Bible story today because of their faith. Let’s learn how their lives showed they trusted in God.”

#### OPTION 2: THE FAITH OF JESUS

Before the session, write the Bible verse from Hebrews 12:2 on a large sheet of poster paper. Form kids into three groups and provide each group with a Bible and a set of two sticky notes.

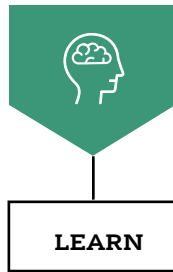
Assign each group with two of the following Bible verses: Mark 14:49; John 14:31; John 8:28-29; Philippians 2:8; Matthew 26:53-54; Matthew 27:30-31.

Lead each group to read their assigned Bible verses and write on their sticky notes how each verse shows Jesus trusted in God. Direct groups to place their sticky notes on the poster paper.

**SAY** “Hebrews 12:2 teaches us that Jesus is the source and finisher of our faith. Jesus is the source of faith because He is who we place our faith in, and He is the One who trusted God perfectly by following His plan. The verses you read showed how Jesus trusted God at all times, even to the point of finishing God’s plan by enduring the cross. Today, we will learn more about how Jesus is the true hero.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# INTRODUCE the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “ Hello, everyone. My name is [your name], and today we get to read from the book of Hebrews. We have learned that faith pleases God, but what does faith look like in the lives of ordinary people? In our Bible story, we will learn how people in the Old Testament chose to trust God even when they didn’t see God’s promise fulfilled.

If you brought a Bible, can you take it out? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Let’s turn to the book of Hebrews together as we get ready to hear our Bible story. [Guide kids to find Hebrews in their Bibles.] ”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

**SAY** “ Let’s say our big picture question together. [Allow responses.] **How can we be saved?** And now let’s say the answer together. [Allow responses.] **We are only saved through faith in Jesus.**

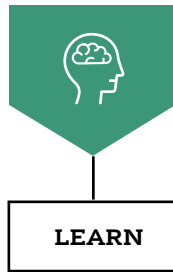
Even before the eternal Son of God came into the world, people were still saved by faith in Him. We can look back and believe by faith in all that Jesus said and did. But the people in the Old Testament had to look forward by faith as they trusted in God and His plan to bring the promised Messiah. **We are only saved through faith in Jesus.** ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “ As Jesus began His ministry of miracles and teachings, not everyone responded in the same way. Some rejected Jesus. Others were amazed by Jesus and His miracles but didn’t understand Him. Last week, we learned that Peter had a right response to Jesus when He recognized that Jesus is God and worshiped Him.

Like Peter, we can believe that Jesus is God and respond in worship of Him. We can choose to put our faith in Him and believe He is the only way to be saved. In our story today, we will learn that long ago people placed their faith in God and obeyed Him because they trusted Him. ”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Hebrews 11. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “We Are Saved by Faith in Jesus.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

### WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH IN JESUS

“ In the book of Hebrews, we find a list of people who lived by faith. What is faith? Faith is being sure that what we hope for will actually happen. Faith is obeying God because we trust Him. By faith, we believe that God created everything from nothing, just by speaking!

Many people in the Bible had faith, and this pleased God. Abel had faith when he gave an offering to God, and God accepted his offering. We must have faith in order to please God because by faith we believe that He exists and that He rewards those who trust in Him.

Noah had faith too. He obeyed God by building an ark to rescue his family. Noah warned other people too because he trusted that God was telling the truth when He said a flood was coming. God was pleased with Noah.

Abraham had faith when God called him to leave his home. Abraham did not know where he was going, but he obeyed God. God made promises to Abraham, and Abraham believed that God was going to keep His promises.

Abraham’s wife Sarah had faith. She trusted God to give her a family even though she was too old to have children. Sarah was 90 and Abraham was 100 when they had their son Isaac. Abraham and Sarah went on to have many descendants. God gave them a family as numerous as the stars in the sky.

Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses had faith. Rahab had faith when she hid the Israelite spies in Jericho. King David had faith too. All of these people trusted God, and so did many others.

Having faith was not easy. Many of these faithful people suffered, and they all died before God’s greatest promise—the arrival of Jesus—came true, but they believed that God had a wonderful plan. God was pleased with them because they trusted Him.

We know today that God’s plan came true. He kept His promise to send the Messiah—His own Son, Jesus—to rescue people from sin.

Christ Connection: The Bible gives examples of people who had faith, but the true hero of the Bible is Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. We are saved from our sins by faith in Jesus. ”

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Display Bible story posters:** Choose some of the people mentioned and display past Bible story posters. Point to the posters when you mention them in the story.

**Write the definition:** Write the definition of faith on a dry erase board: *Faith is being sure that what we hope for will actually happen because we trust in God.* Remind kids what faith means throughout the story.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

### 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ In Hebrews 11, we read story after story about people in God’s family who trusted Him. Their faith in Him was not only said with their mouths, but their faith was also displayed through their obedience to Him. Even when their obedience brought ridicule, danger, and for some, death, they believed God more than their doubts, fears, and their comfort. They did not always know the outcome, but in one thing they were confident: God can be trusted.

Who were some of the people mentioned in our story? How did they display faith? [Allow responses.] From Abel to the prophets, the writer of Hebrews reminds us of all the ways people trusted God. They believed that God had a plan to save His people and bring them into His kingdom forever. Even though they did not see God’s plan come true on this earth, they still trusted Him.

What is God’s response to those who trust in Him by faith? Look at Hebrews 11:6. [Choose a volunteer to read Hebrews 11:6.] God rewards those that seek Him. And the greatest reward that God gives us is His Son, Jesus. When we trust in Him by faith, we are saved and will live with Him forever. Jesus is the true Hero of the Bible, who lived a perfect life of trust in God and died for our sins. **We are only saved through faith in Jesus.** ”

### 3 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ The Bible gives examples of people who had faith, but the true hero of the Bible is Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. We are saved from our sins by faith in Jesus. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

### 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 21, Session 4” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. When we feel like our faith is small and we doubt God’s promises, is this wrong? Explain.
2. How does Jesus’ faithfulness help strengthen your faith?

### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Display a world map and point to the locations mentioned. Remind kids that George Liele (LIGH uhl) was an emancipated slave who became a missionary to people in Jamaica. Tell kids he was the first person to take the gospel from America to another country. Remind kids that he started the first African Baptist Church in North America and then sailed to Jamaica to tell others about Jesus.

**SAY** “ Ten years before William Carey went to India as a missionary, George Liele set sail for Jamaica to share the gospel. Not only was George Liele a great missionary and preacher, but he was also known for discipling Christians to be faithful to go to all nations and share Jesus with all people.





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Many who came to know Jesus through Liele’s preaching later went on to become missionaries to places beyond Jamaica.”

Pray, thanking God for missionaries like George Liele who worked hard to tell people in Jamaica and other places about Jesus. Pray for missionaries serving in all countries around the world.

### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Hebrews 11:6 together.

Form kids into pairs and provide each pair with five index cards. Lead the pairs to write parts of the key passage on the index cards. Distribute a blindfold to each pair and direct kids to choose a partner to blindfold. Lead the kids without a blindfold to give directions to their blindfolded partner to help them place the index cards in the correct order of the key passage. Tell the kids that only the kids with the blindfold can touch the index cards.

**SAY** “ Like the people of faith in our Bible story, we can trust God even when we do not understand His plans or cannot see what lies ahead. We trust in Him and obey Him because we hope in the promises that are true for us in Jesus. ”

Lead kids to sing “Without Faith (Hebrews 11:6).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

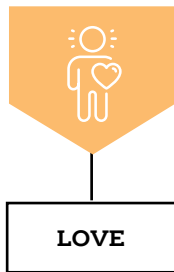
### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** “ God, we are grateful for Jesus and how we can be saved by Him through faith. Please help us live by faith and trust You in every circumstance. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





## THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

### LOVE God by Applying the Story

#### 1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Hebrews 11. Remind kids that Hebrews 11 teaches us about many Old Testament people who lived by faith. Point to different places on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map where some of these stories took place such as Abraham in Canaan (G10), Joseph and Moses in Egypt (H7), and Rahab in Jericho (G10). Remind kids that these people were not living for this earth but for their eternal home in God's kingdom.

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Hebrews 11:14-16.

**SAY** “Like the people in Hebrews 11, in Christ, we are exiles on earth. We live by faith in the eternal home to come where we will dwell with Jesus forever.

This world will try to distract us and tempt us to believe that it has all we need. But by faith, we remember and hope for all that God has prepared for us in His kingdom. We live on this earth by trusting God has something better for us—namely life with Jesus forever.”

#### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

**SAY** “How does this world tempt us to place our hope or faith in something other than Jesus?”

Discuss how we can be easily distracted by the pleasures, comforts, and false hopes of this world. Explain that sometimes we can also become discouraged and doubt God when we endure trials. Encourage kids to keep their eyes on Jesus and to look forward by faith in the promises of God's kingdom.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 12:1-2.)

**SAY** “What faith story encouraged you most from Hebrews 11? Why?”

Answers will vary. Encourage kids to remember that these stories were of ordinary people who trusted in an extraordinary God. Discuss how there are ordinary Christians today who continue to live by faith.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Cor. 1:8-9.)

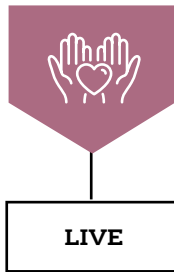
**SAY** “When do you find it most challenging to live by faith?”

Answers will vary. Remind kids that we will all struggle at times and that God does not reject us when we doubt. Discuss that our faith can be challenged when we face trials or sufferings. Explain that sometimes we can grow weary from our sin, but that God's grace is sufficient. Encourage kids to trust in God's faithfulness to them and His promise to be with them.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 10:22-23.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





## THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

### LIVE the Mission

#### 1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

##### OPTION 1: GEORGE LIELE REVIEW



Before the session, write the following actions on one end of separate craft sticks: in a whisper voice, while doing jumping jacks, while running in place, in a high-pitched voice, in a robot voice, say the words slowly, say the words quickly, in a baby voice, sing the words like an opera singer, while crawling. Place all the sticks with the blank side up into a cup.

Call for a volunteer to choose a craft stick. Direct her to tell a fact she has learned about George Liele using an action or a voice described on the craft stick. Continue until all kids have an opportunity to share something they have learned about George Liele.

**SAY** “ Learning about faithful missionaries encourages our faith. Not only do we see their obedience and desire to be obedient ourselves, but we also see God’s faithfulness in their lives. George Liele’s life is a reminder that God is with His children and that we can trust Him to help us share Jesus with others. ”

##### OPTION 2: PICTURE OF FAITH



Form kids into two teams. Invite one kid to begin the activity and whisper the name of a person of faith from Hebrews 11 to her. Direct her to draw a picture on a dry erase board describing that person for her team. Instruct her team to guess the person she is drawing within 30 seconds.

Continue switching back and forth between teams as kids take turns drawing people of faith. Award points for each correct answer within the time limit.

**SAY** “ The people in Hebrews 11 remind us that God is pleased by our faith in Him. We can live a life of faith as we trust in Jesus and depend on Him to help us be faithful. God promises to reward those who trust Him. One day, we will experience God’s greatest reward when we see Jesus face to face. ”

#### 2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, praising God for salvation available to us by faith in Jesus. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Hall of Faith” on the activity page.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?

FOLD



Unit 21 • Session 4

## WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH IN JESUS

Hebrews 11

### HOW CAN WE BE SAVED? WE ARE ONLY SAVED THROUGH FAITH IN JESUS.

In the book of Hebrews, we find a list of people who lived by faith. What is faith? Faith is being sure that what we hope for will actually happen. Faith is obeying God because we trust Him. By faith, we believe that God created everything from nothing, just by speaking!

Many people in the Bible had faith, and this pleased God. Abel had faith when he gave an offering to God, and God accepted his offering. We must have faith in order to please God.

Noah had faith too. He obeyed God by building an ark to rescue his family.

Abraham had faith when God called him to leave his home. Abraham did not know where he was going, but he obeyed God. Abraham believed that God was going to keep His promises.

Abraham's wife Sarah had faith. She trusted God to give her a family even though she was too old to have children. God gave them a family as numerous as the stars in the sky.

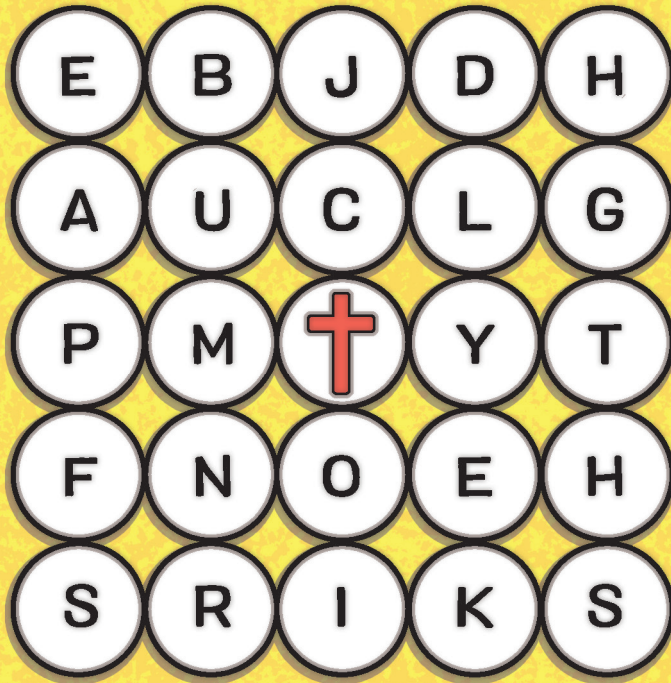
Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses had faith. Rahab had faith when she hid the Israelite spies in Jericho. King David had faith too. All of these people trusted God, and so did many others.

Having faith was not easy. They all died before God's greatest promise—the arrival of Jesus—came true, but they believed that God had a wonderful plan.

God kept His promise to send the Messiah—His own Son, Jesus—to rescue people from sin.

**Christ Connection:** The Bible gives examples of people who had faith, but the true hero of the Bible is Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. We are saved from our sins by faith in Jesus.

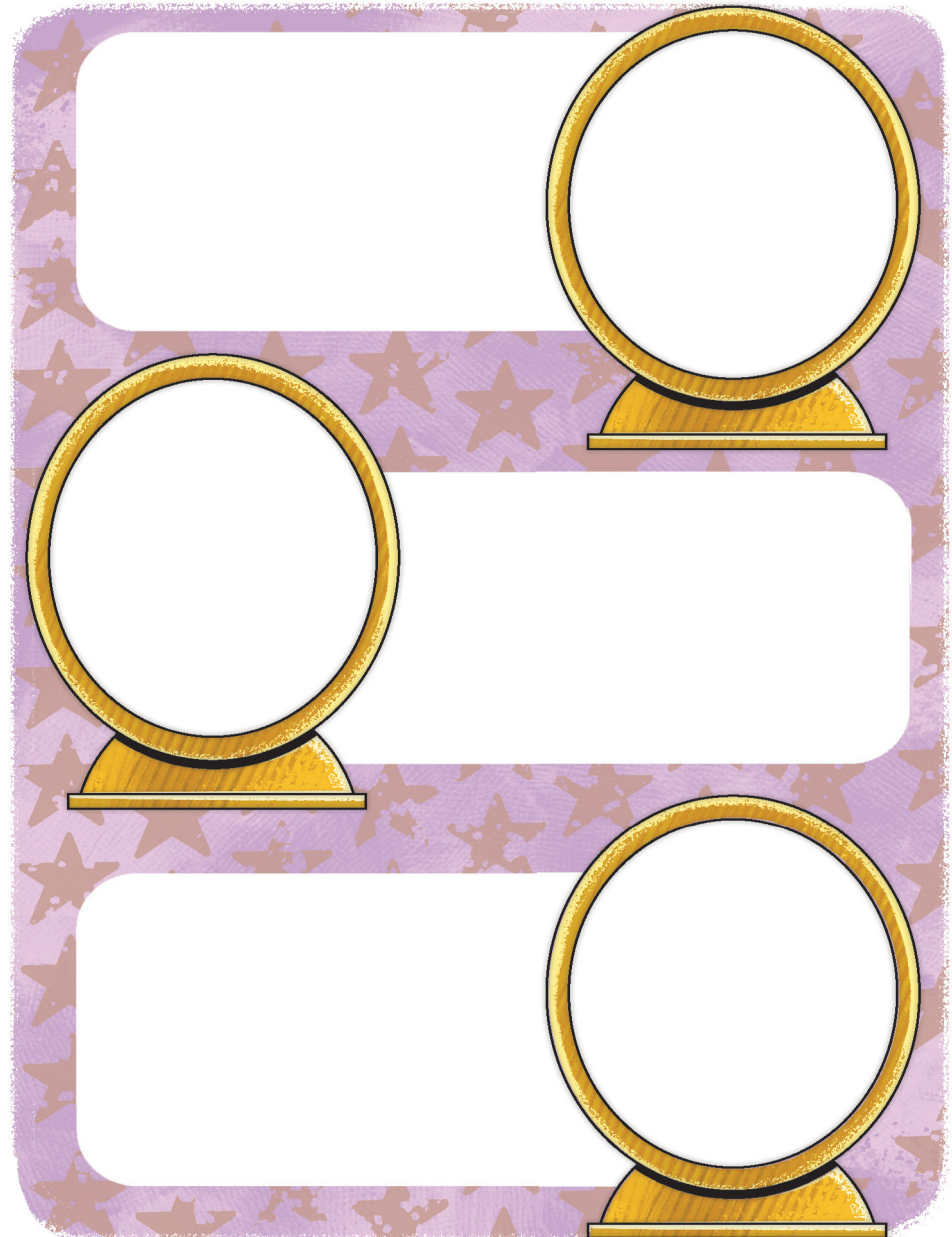
**How Can We Please God?** | For each clue, start at the cross then follow the direction of the arrows to answer the question, "How can we please God?" Write each letter in the spaces below.



1. ↑ two and ← one
2. → one
3. ↓ one and ← two
4. ↑ one and ← two
5. ↓ two
6. → two
7. ↓ one and → two

\_\_\_\_\_

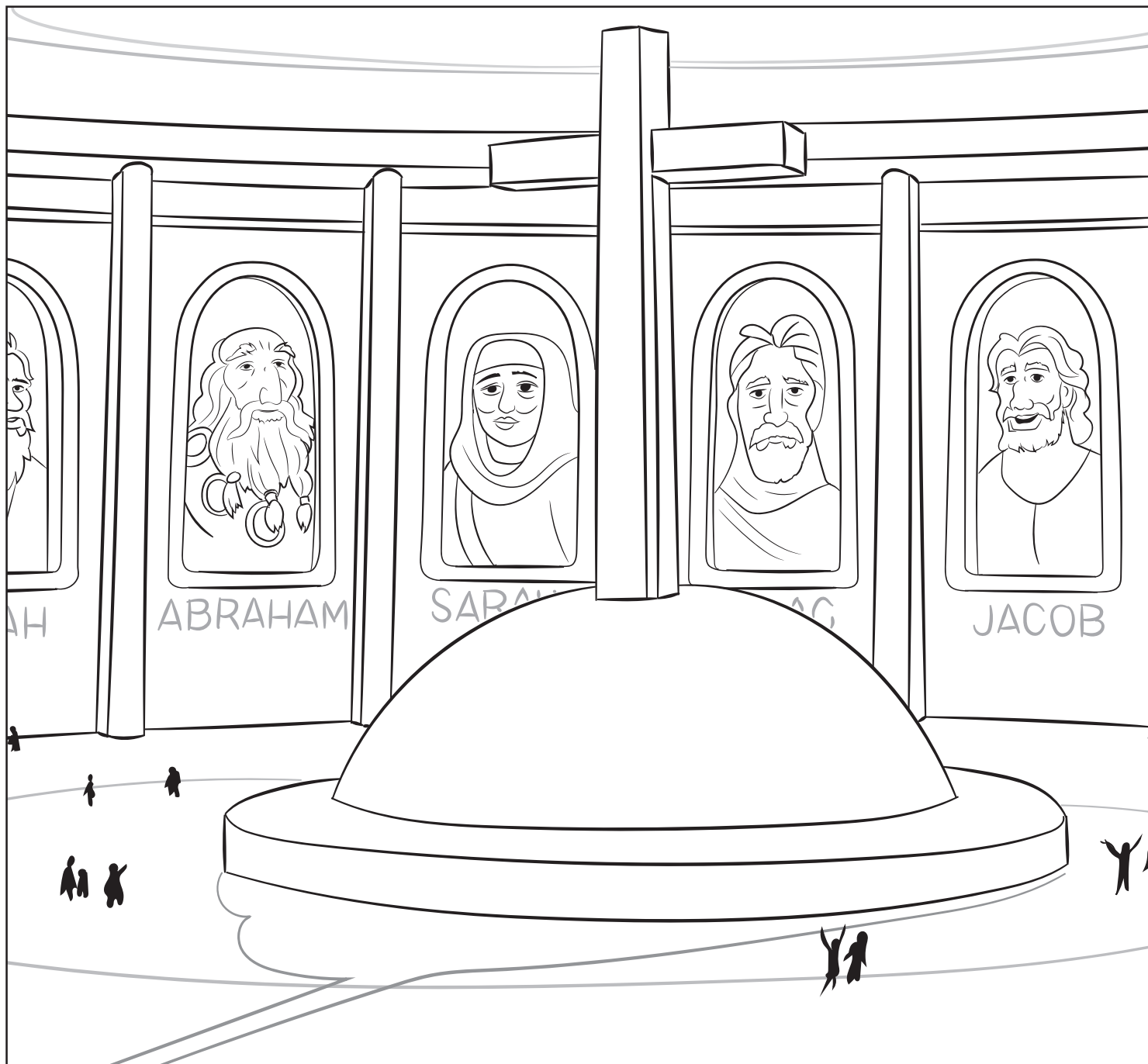
1.    2.                    3.    4.    5.    6.    7.



**Hall of Faith** | Look up Hebrews 11 in your Bible and choose three people to draw in the picture frames. Then write how they lived by faith.



NAME:



## We Are Saved by Faith in Jesus

### BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- In the book of Hebrews, we find a list of people who lived by faith. We must have faith in order to please God.
- These people didn't get to see God's promise—the arrival of Jesus—come true, but they believed that God had a wonderful plan.
- We know today that God's plan came true. He kept His promise to send the Messiah—His own Son, Jesus—to rescue people from sin.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

The Bible gives examples of people who had faith, but the true hero of the Bible is Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. We are saved from our sins by faith in Jesus.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Hebrews 11:6

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

How can we be saved? We are only saved through faith in Jesus.