

Called to Believe

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1 **Lesson 11****Focus:**

God calls us to believe in Him.

Lesson 11**Bible Basis:**

Genesis 15:1-6;
Romans 4:1-5,
22-25

Lesson 11**Memory Verse:**

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.
—Ephesians 2:8

Students will realize the importance of believing in things that are true as they explore how God calls us to believe in Him.

Materials:

- Paper
- Pens/pencils

As students join the group time, distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home).

Ask students to number their papers from 1–5. Explain that they are going to take a quick quiz. They are to write B next to the number if they think it is a statement that is a “believable fact” and U next to the number if they believe it is an “unbelievable fact.”

When all students are ready with their papers numbered and have their pencil or pen in hand, recite the following five statements, pausing after each one to give students time to write a “B” for believable or a “U” for unbelievable. Do not read the answers to the quiz until all the statements have been given to and judged by the students.

1. Eating salt on pineapple makes it taste sweeter because it suppresses the bitterness in pineapple.

Because salt itself is not sweet, this fact feels “unbelievable.”

2. The fruit portion of peaches and nectarines is the same. The only difference between the two is that peaches have fuzz on their skin.

Because peaches and nectarines taste incredibly similar, this fact is believable.

3. Humans and giraffes (and all mammals) have the same amount of bones in their necks.

Giraffes have much longer necks than humans do, so this sounds “unbelievable.”

4. On average, clouds weigh over one million pounds because of all the water they contain.

Clouds hold a lot of water, so fact number four is believable.

After students have finished rating the facts presented as believable or unbelievable, inform them that all of the facts were true. Ask students if it’s difficult for them to believe that all of the facts presented were believable. Share that they definitely were true facts, believable or not! If they want to check sources, the website where these facts were found is listed below.

Some things we see and hear are hard to believe; it’s hard to know if they are true or not. There’s a technology being perfected that could make it even harder to believe things we see and hear. People are sometimes skeptical about stories written down, but if they can see a person say something or watch a news or video clip of that person saying something, that is all the evidence they need to believe it is true. But this new technology dispels that whole area of thought. What we’ll discover in this clip is that what you see is not always what is real!

Play the following video for your students [2:36; stop at 1:45]:

How to avoid falling for deepfakes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmSU-RdySnw>

We need to be careful to discern what is true from what is not true. Having watched this video, we may be skeptical the next time we watch a video on the Internet...and that’s OK!

➤ **What interested you the most about this video?** (Answers will vary. Invite various students to share.)

➤ **Why might a video found on the Internet that you watch in the future turn out to be misleading and contain falsehoods?** (According to this video, the technology is changing in such a way that when you watch a person talking in a video about something, you may have to question if that is truly him or her speaking. You also may need to question if the words you heard were actually spoken by that person or if an actor put those words in this person’s mouth.)

Today we’ll delve into the idea of faith and what we’re called upon to believe. Let’s find out more.

Source:

<https://www.sunmark.org/connect/sunmark-360/16-facts-sound-fake-are-100-true>

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher’s guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

middle school



Lesson 11 / November 10, 2024

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for use as
STEP 4 ▶

Lesson 11

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Lesson 11

Memory Verse:

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Materials:

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If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring supplies with them to class.

When God seemed slow to answer His promise that Abram would be the father of all nations and have many descendants, Abram believed his offspring would come from his servant, not that his wife Sarai would become pregnant in her old age. When God restated that Abram would indeed become a father through Sarai, Abram believed God and this belief was credited to him as righteousness. God calls us to believe in Him.

Invite students who want to share with the group to explain, one at a time, why they believe in God. Spend a few minutes doing this; make sure everyone who wants to share has a chance to do so.

Believing what God says to us today means spending time in the Bible so we can know what God says to us through His Word. Have students divide into pairs and talk among themselves about if and how they make a Bible time work in their day-to-day lives and schedules. (If your class is meeting online, you can use the breakout room feature of the video chat software.) When students have done this, have them discuss and answer the question, **“How does knowing what God says in His Word strengthen your belief in Him?”** Give students a few minutes to ask and answer this question in pairs.

In today’s “fake news” world where we aren’t always sure we are being fed the truth from the media, online sites, or—as we saw earlier in the video—falsely manipulated images, the best way to believe God and know what He says to us is through the Bible. Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). Encourage students to make a plan for this week’s personal Bible time and study of God’s Word. Ask:

- **How believable is God and His Word?** (Answers will vary. Most students will say they believe God’s Word to be true and use it as the source of truth in their lives.)

Believing in God is an act of faith and comes by God's grace. Have a volunteer read Ephesians 2:8–9. **It is not from ourselves; it is the gift of God.** Ask students who may not know if they believe in God to consider staying after the group time for further discussion. Use the back inside cover of the teacher's guide to help you share God's plan of salvation with your students.

Challenge your students to make a list this week of things they believe to be true about God, and things they find difficult to believe. Encourage them to spend time in the Word looking at verses that would verify or disclaim items on their list. Ask them to bring their lists in next week so that they can share what they've discovered.

Close in prayer encouraging your students to believe in God. Pray God will use this belief in their lives to do great things for His kingdom.

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