



NAME:

GRADE:

What you hold in your hand is an incredible resource, a tool designed to help us effectively partner with parents and lead children into a growing relationship with God.

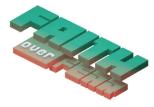
Contained within the pages of this booklet you'll find:

- a. Important scriptures, such as our memory verse.
- b. Amazing and relevant Bible stories.
- c. Key points that make up the exciting messages planned for this entire series.
- d. A place to stamp for each service attended.

This booklet was created to inform you of exactly what our children's ministry will speak about each service. You'll be able to review with your children the messages covered, and also look ahead as the series unfolds.

So partner with us and help your children learn responsibility by bringing this booklet every service. Each time they visit, we will put a stamp in their book to show that they attended, and also filled out each point of that day's lesson in this book.

As an added incentive, we'll continue to give a special reward to those who have attended each day.



"FAITH OVER FEAR"

Faith over fear. What does that mean? Well, we all have a choice to make in our lives. Do we choose faith? Or do we choose fear? Hopefully you know which choice is best. It's fairly obvious, in fact. But sometimes things happen in life, and sometimes we lose our faith, and sometimes fear creeps in. And it looks scary!

It sure is a bad feeling when we don't have faith. In fact, the very opposite of faith ...is fear! Faith is believing and trusting in God through all seasons. Fear is believing and trusting in anything else. And that's a pretty frightening thought! So it only makes sense: if you want to have no fear, you've got to have more faith.

But how can we develop more faith? Simple! Firstly, you must know where faith and fear come from. Fear starts in your mind. Faith starts in the heart, "for it is with your heart that you believe."

But when scary thoughts begin to lurk in your mind, that's when the conflict begins. Look, we've all been there. If fear is slithering in, you should do what the Bible suggests: "Trust the Lord with all your heart."

If something frightens you, or you aren't quite sure how you'll make it through, the best thing to do is focus on the answer. Fear focuses on the problem, and faith focuses on that answer. For example, Joshua didn't focus on the size of the walls in front of him, but rather on the size of the God he knew could bust them down! See how that works?

Finally, another way to have no fear in your life is to look back on the right things from your past. If we look back only at bad times, things can seem pretty bleak. But faith doesn't look back like that. Instead, faith focuses on past victories.

Joshua and the Israelites remembered crossing the Jordan River miraculously, and knew God was still with them as they marched forward. And when we see all the things we ourselves have made it through, that can be a huge encouragement and a reminder that the God who rescued us then *can do it again.*

God gave us a spirit that is filled with faith, which is the opposite of fear. Just remember: faith starts in the heart and not the mind. Faith looks to the answers and not the problems. And faith focuses only on how faithful God has been for us all these years. Keep that in mind, and you'll certainly know what it's like to have faith over fear!



"FAITH OVER FEAR"

"The angel of the Lord stands guard around those who have respect for Him. And He saves them." *Psalm 34:7 NIRV*

"So don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows." *Matthew 10:31 NIRV*

"I looked to the Lord, and He answered me. He saved me from everything I was afraid of." *Psalm 34:4 NIRV*

"I am the Lord your God. I take hold of your right hand. I say to you, Do not be afraid. I will help you." *Isaiah 41:13 NIRV*

"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid. You are with me." *Psalm 23:4 NIRV*

"There is no fear in love. Instead, perfect love drives fear away. Fear has to do with being punished. The one who fears does not have perfect love." *1 John 4:18 NIRV*

"The Lord gives me light and saves me. Why should I fear anyone? The Lord is my place of safety. Why should I be afraid?" **Psalm 27:1 NIRV**

"Do not tremble with fear. Do not be afraid. Didn't I announce everything that has happened? Didn't I tell you about it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any other God but me? No! There is no other Rock. I do not know even one." *Isaiah 44:8 NIRV*



1. Fear starts in your mind. Faith starts in the______. When fear begins to lurk in your mind, remember to trust God with all of your heart! *"For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." Romans 10:10 NIRV*

A. MIND B. HEART C. PANCREAS

2. Fear sees the problem. Faith sees the_____. Stop focusing on the challenges before you, and start seeing how God can bring you through!

"We live by faith, not by sight." 2 Corinthians 5:7 NIRV

A. MYSTERY B. TOILET PAPER C. ANSWER

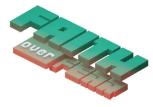
3. Fear focuses on past tragedies. Faith focuses on past

_____. Look back on those times that God has saved you, and remember that He can do it again.

"Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." Psalm 103:2 NIRV

A. ACCIDENTS B. VICTORIES C. CLASSES





"FIND CALM IN THE STORM"

It was a dark and stormy night; the rain fell down in torrents. The wind blew huge waves across the lake, battering the side of the boat that the apostles were floating on. They were too far out to sea, and they were absolutely filled with fear.

That's when they saw someone actually walking across the water towards them. It was four o'clock in the morning, and they were scared out of their wits!

"A ghost!" they said, crying out in terror.

But what they saw wasn't a ghost – it was Jesus! He was quick to comfort them by saying, "Courage, it's me. Don't be afraid!"

How incredible to have Jesus come to them when all around was dark and scary. The apostles were filled with fear. When they saw Jesus, they were seeing something unusual. Fear can come from the unknown. When we are in any new situation, sometimes we can get a little afraid.

Sometimes we let fear control us. You may be feeling that way even now. But we have to remember that God is with us always, and that faith is the thing that should lead us on. Peter had just enough faith to realize this. Perhaps that is why he volunteered to hop out of the boat. He discovered firsthand that where fear ends, faith begins as he walked across the waves towards Jesus.

Unfortunately for him, Peter's eyes started to look away from Jesus and back at the thing that caused him fear in the first place. When that happened, he started sinking under. Jesus rescued Peter just as he was starting to go under the waves, and told him, "Your faith is so small!"

If only Peter had kept his eyes on Jesus, he would have walked across the top of the water with him. But he had yet to learn that when faith and fear meet head on, faith can always win.

Fear can come from the unknown, and can control us if we're not careful. You can imagine that Peter learned a lot that dark and stormy night. And you just know that for the rest of his life, Peter probably laughed about that night to the others and said, "I ain't afraid of no ghost!"

In other words, he was able to find calm in the storm.



"FIND CALM IN THE STORM"

Right away Jesus made the disciples get into the boat. He had them go on ahead of Him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Then He sent the crowd away. After He had sent them away, He went up on a mountainside by Himself to pray. When evening came, He was there alone. The boat was already a long way from land. It was being pounded by the waves because the wind was blowing against it. Early in the morning, Jesus went out to the disciples. He walked on the lake. They saw Him walking on the lake and were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said. And they cried out in fear.

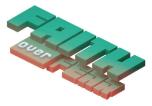
Right away Jesus called out to them, "Be brave! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, is it you?" Peter asked. "If it is, tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," Jesus said.

So Peter got out of the boat. He walked on the water toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid. He began to sink. He cried out, "Lord! Save me!"

Right away Jesus reached out His hand and caught him. "Your faith is so small!" he said. "Why did you doubt me?"

When they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those in the boat worshiped Jesus. They said, "You really are the Son of God!"

Matthew 14:22-33 NIRV



1. Fear can come from the ______. Encountering anything new can be a bit scary. Even the apostles were spooked when they saw Jesus walking on the water – they thought He was a ghost!

"They saw Him walking on the lake and were terrified. 'It's a ghost!' they said. And they cried out in fear." Matthew 14:26 NIRV

A. UNKNOWN B. BIBLE C. HAND SANITIZER

2. Don't let fear _____you. Let faith take over, and put your confidence in Jesus. "Right away Jesus called out to them, 'Be brave! It is I. Don't be afraid." Matthew 14:27 NIRV

A. ESCAPE B. JOIN C. CONTROL

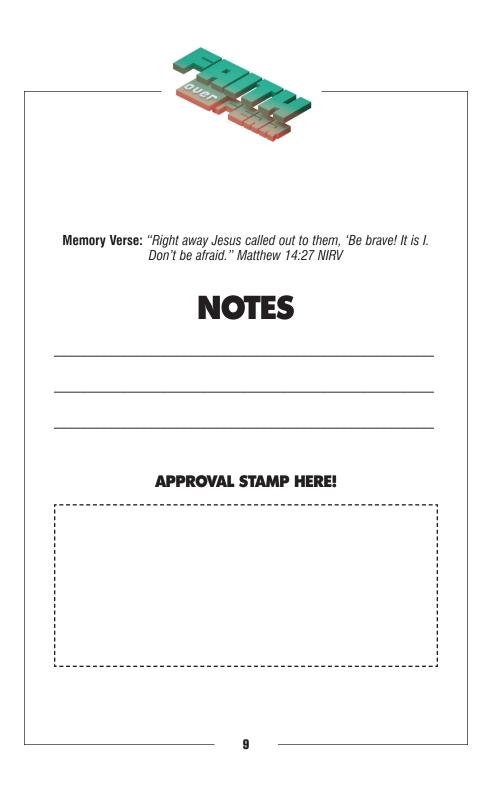
3. Where fear ends, faith ______. As soon as they put their faith in Jesus, their fears were calmed. The same will happen with you too! "'Lord, if it's you,' Peter replied, 'Tell me to come to you on the water.' 'Come,' He said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came towards Jesus." Matthew 14:28-29 NIRV

A. RETREATS B. ENDS C. BEGINS

4. ______ can always win. When faith and fear face off, just know that faith in God can always win.

"Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Psalm 23:4 NIRV

A. FEAR B. FAITH C. TOILET PAPER





There are no big monsters in your closet, no massive slimy creatures lurking in the lake, and there's certainly not a forty-foot tall lizard stomping through buildings downtown. No, there isn't a giant outside your door, but sometimes we all face some giant troubles in life. Bad news or challenges can seem pretty huge. Just turn on the news on your television and it won't take you too long to see reports of big trouble wanting to stomp all over us.

So what do you do when you look up to a giant problem that seems to be glaring back at you? The answer is simple: Do what David did in the Bible.

He didn't back down from a challenge, because he had faith. Put simply, faith attacks – and fear retreats. Saul and the Israeli army were filled with fear, and going in the wrong direction. They retreated, but David changed all that because he was filled with faith. He moved forward to attack the situation head on.

Why did he do that? Again, the answer is simple: he knew what his God could do. His faith trusted in God's abilities, and not his own. He knew on paper, his match against the giant wasn't stacked in his favor. But faith never looks at the size of the problem. Faith looks at the size of God and knows everything will be okay.

It was an amazing day for the army of Israel. Earlier in the morning, fear was contagious. No one wanted to step up to fight against the giant. But in just one moment, they had all gone from being paralyzed with fear to being filled with faith in God.

The great thing about faith is that it is contagious too. It may take a little bit of courage on your part, but when you stand up to a giant situation because of faith, others can get that courage to.

So attack the situation and trust God no matter what. With His help, you can take down the giants because you know something? You've got *no fear!*



"NO FEAR"

Early in the morning David left his father's flock in the care of a shepherd. David loaded up the food and started out, just as Jesse had directed.

David reached the camp as the army was going out to its battle positions. The soldiers were shouting the war cry. Israel and the Philistines were lining up their armies for battle. The armies were facing each other.

David left what he had brought with the man who took care of the supplies. He ran to the battle lines and greeted his brothers. As David was talking with them, Goliath stepped forward from his line. Goliath was a mighty Philistine hero from Gath. He again dared someone to fight him, and David heard it.

When Israel's army saw Goliath, all of them ran away from him. That's because they were filled with fear.

The men of Israel had been saying, "Just look at how this man keeps stepping forward! Again and again he dares Israel to fight him. The king will make the man who kills him very wealthy. He will also give him his daughter to be his wife. He won't require anyone in his family to pay any taxes in Israel."

David spoke to the men who were standing near him. He asked them, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine? Goliath is bringing shame on Israel. What will be done for the one who removes it? This Philistine isn't even circumcised. He dares the armies of the living God to fight him. Who does he think he is?"

1 Samuel 17:20-26 NIRV



1. Fear retreats. Faith ______. The Israelites were scared of Goliath, but David was ready to go forward and attack! "David said to Saul, 'Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him." 1 Samuel 17:32 NIRV

C. RESTS A. ADVANCES B. FALTERS

2. Fear results in trusting in our abilities. Faith is a result in trusting in God's _____. Remember that God is the one that brings us victorv! "The battle is the Lord's!" 1 Samuel 17:47 NIRV

C. FEAR A. THRONE **B. ABILITIES**

3. Fear looks at the size of the problem. Faith looks at the problem in comparison to _____. Goliath was huge, but he did not even compare with God. Don't spend all your time looking at the ginormous challenge in front of you, when you could be focusing instead on the size of your God.

"David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with a sword and a spear and a javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."" 1 Samuel 17:45 NIRV

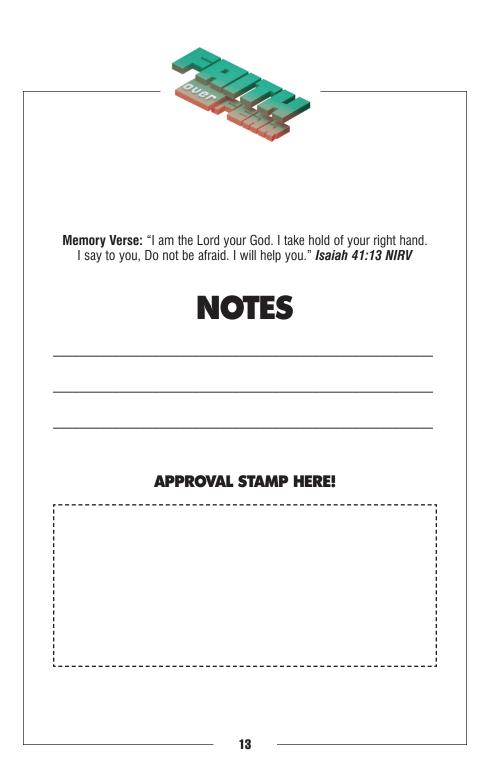
A. YOURSELF B. GOD

C. TOILET PAPER

4. Faith and fear are _____. The Israelites were all afraid, until David won the victory. Everyone around can go from fear to trust in God with a simple act of faith.

"When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran. Then the men of Israel and Judah surged forward with a shout and pursued the Philistines to the entrance of Gath and the gates of Ekron." 1 Samuel 17:51-51 NIRV

A. SYNONYMS B. DISCOVERED C. CONTAGIOUS





"BLESSED DURING THE TEST"

The dark and gloomy entrance to the cave stood before him, and he knew what he had to do: he had to go in. Behind him, a group of devious, scheming men laughed maniacally. They just knew that Daniel would go into that cave and be devoured by the snarling beasts!

As he cautiously walked forward – he heard a growl from the darkness. Just how did he get into this mess? He had done his very best, and that's what God asks of each of us. But as Daniel discovered, even after we've done our very best – there might come a test.

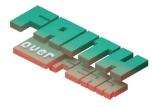
Enemies had set him up by having a proclamation made that said this: anyone caught praying to God would be thrown into the lions' den. Daniel was tested, because he knew he simply had to pray. But he did the best thing by standing up for what was right.

Going into that eerie cave, Daniel was confident that he did the right thing before God's eyes – and for that, he was blessed. The lions did not eat him, and Daniel was protected through the long night.

Additionally, others were blessed too. The king of the land issued a proclamation of his own: "I order people in every part of my kingdom to respect and honor Daniel's God."

When we stand up in faith, God can use us to take care of the rest. Just like in this story with Daniel, your very actions will lead others in the right direction.

Remember his story, and how God brought him through. And remember how others were blessed. God can and will do that with you, so stand up with faith when you know you should, and you'll be blessed during the test.



"BLESSED DURING THE TEST"

Then they spoke to the king again. They said, "Daniel is one of the prisoners from Judah. He doesn't pay any attention to you, King Darius. He doesn't obey the order you put in writing. He still prays to his God three times a day."

When the king heard that, he was very upset. He didn't want Daniel to be harmed in any way. Until sunset, he did everything he could to save him.

Then the men went as a group to the king. They said to him, "King Darius, remember that no order or law you make can be changed. That's what the laws of the Medes and Persians require."

So the king gave the order. Daniel was brought out and thrown into the lions' den. The king said to him, "You always serve your God faithfully. So may He save you!"

A stone was brought and placed over the opening of the den. The king sealed it with his own special ring. He also sealed it with the rings of his nobles. Then nothing could be done to help Daniel.

The king returned to his palace. He didn't eat anything that night. He didn't ask for anything to be brought to him for his enjoyment. And he couldn't sleep.

As soon as the sun began to rise, the king got up. He hurried to the lions' den. When he got near it, he called out to Daniel. His voice was filled with great concern. He said, "Daniel! You serve the living God. You always serve Him faithfully. So has He been able to save you from the lions?"

Daniel answered, "My king, may you live forever! My God sent His angel. And His angel shut the mouths of the lions. They haven't hurt me at all. That's because I haven't done anything wrong in God's sight. I've never done anything wrong to you either, my king."

Daniel 6:13-22 NIRV



1. Do your very______. Daniel obeyed God, just as we should. When you're not sure what to do, it is best to do what Daniel never stopped doing: take time to pray.

"Daniel did a better job than the other two leaders or any of the royal rulers. He was an unusually good and able man. So the king planned to put him in charge of the whole kingdom." Daniel 6:3 NIRV

A. WORST B. BEST C. CHORES

2. There might come a ______. Life for Daniel got challenging, and though we probably won't be thrown into a lions' den, things can get challenging for us as well. The best strategy is to keep honoring God, and watch Him see you through.

"But the other two leaders and the royal rulers heard about it. So they looked for a reason to bring charges against Daniel." Daniel 6:4 NIRV

A. TEST B. LAB C. ONLINE CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENT

3. God will make you ______. God takes care of those that love Him, so put your faith in Him when things seem to get dark around you. *"The king was filled with joy. He ordered his servants to lift Daniel out of the den. So they did. They didn't see any wounds on him. That's because he had trusted in his God." Daniel 6:23 NIRV*

A. MAD B. OLD C. BLESSED

4. He'll take care of the ______. God can use your faith to inspire others, so make a stand and become the hero He wants you to be. *"I order people in every part of my kingdom to respect and honor Daniel's God." Daniel 6:26a NIRV*

A. MOB	B. REST	C. TOILET PAPER

