

Homework for Lesson 18 Faith and Trust

Today we are going to explore faith and trust. What do you think of when you hear the word faith?

Faith is hard to describe, isn't it? For us, it is belief in a being greater than us, a Creator that is not seen or fully understood. In order to build our faith, it requires trust. Trust is taking action on our faith.

Who or what do you trust the most?

What do you trust in that you cannot see?

Most of the Bible (especially the first 39 books) is about a special group of people. They were first called Hebrews, then Israelites, then Jews. They began as a small tribe, then grew into a nation of people.

They were slaves to other nations more than once. A key time in their history is when the leader of the Israelites, Moses, led them out of slavery in Egypt. It was an incredible event where God split a wide sea for them to cross and escape.

Moses is one of the most important people in Jewish and Christian faith because God revealed through him a lot about courage and leadership.

After their escape from Egypt, the Israelites journeyed for years through the harsh desert trying to find their way back home. Before they became slaves, they lived in a beautiful place called the Promised Land. Moses endured years of complaining and struggles leading this group toward home and toward trusting in God.

Along the way, Moses mentored a young man named Joshua. Joshua desired to be like Moses because of how Moses lived out his faith in God. But after years of leading the people of Israel through the desert, Moses came to a moment in his life where he chose not to trust in God. His punishment was that he would pass away before the people of Israel would return to their Promised Land.

After Moses was God, Joshua was put in charge of the nation of Israel. Joshua was scared as millions of people were now counting on him, and he missed his courageous mentor, Moses.

We are going to read the story as it is found in the Bible. The story is divided in three sections: *how God responds to Joshua*, *how Joshua responds to God*, and *how God's people respond to Joshua*.

Joshua 1:1-18

How does God respond to Joshua? (1:1-9)

How does Joshua respond to his faith in God? (1: 10-16)

Why do you think others trusted Joshua? How did he inspire his people? (1: 17-18)

You are in a stage of life where questioning and doubting is a natural part of who you are. You are discovering your own independence from your parents, and seeking to find what is real and true for you. Part of deepening your faith is asking questions, experiencing doubts, and discovering your own real faith. As strange as it sounds, doubt is a necessary part of faith. We will discuss that idea more in another lesson.