

YEAR OF GROWTH

FAITH WEEK 3

EXAMPLES

New Testament:

There are also many examples of men and women of faith in the New Testament. However, there is no greater example than that of Jesus. We will focus on our Lord and others who help us to understand the nature and action of faith.

Day One _____ – Sunday

Reflect on the definitions of the words that God used to describe faith. Think back over the previous lessons and Old Testament examples of faith. Read again the passages that you have written. Recall the verses you have memorized. Focus on the meaning of faith and prepare to explore more Bible examples of faith.

Day Two _____ – Monday

Hebrews 2:14 – 3:6

This passage in Hebrews seems to be the only one where the idea of faith (or, here, “faithfulness”) is explicitly applied to Jesus Himself. However, His entire life was a demonstration of faith – total trust in God joined with obedience to His Will (cf. John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38; Matt. 26:39, 42; Rom. 15:3; Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 5:8; 10:7-8 [quoting Psalm 40:7-8]). All that God commanded Him to do He did faithfully (John 5:36; 14:31; 15:10; 17:4). Thus, He could declare from the cross, “It is finished” (John 19:30 – *accomplished, completed, fulfilled*).

In Hebrews 2:17, He is a faithful High Priest. He lived a perfect life as a man to be tempted, tested, and tried as all men are. Thus, He is able to understand and plead our case before God. In Hebrews 3:2, He was faithful to God in all that was expected of Him. Jesus is both God and man – and He was faithful to both God and man! He is the perfect Savior, Redeemer, and Priest!

Day Three _____ – Tuesday

John 20:24-31

At first glance, Thomas may not seem like the best example of faith. After all, he is usually referred to as “doubting” Thomas. However, his story teaches an important lesson about faith. Thomas did not believe blindly; he sought evidence for his faith (as God commanded [cf. Isa. 8:20; Matt. 7:20; Acts 17:11; 1 Jn. 4:1; Rev. 2:2]). Yet, when that evidence was presented, he immediately accepted the truth, confessed his faith, and changed his life to that of a faithful follower. True faith is built on evidence and, therefore, it is boldly proclaimed.

Day Four – Wednesday

Matthew 16:13-19; John 6:66-69; Luke 22:31-34; Acts 3:12-21

Peter gives an example of the full spectrum of faith. First, he proclaimed his faith – declaring plainly that Jesus is the Son of God. Then, he doubted and denied his faith. After bitter weeping and repentance, Peter preached his faith. From Peter we learn to be on guard lest our faith grow weak and fail. Yet, we also learn that true faith is to be boldly proclaimed.

Day Five – Thursday

Galatians 1:10-24

The word “faith” (or some variant thereof) is found 164 times in Paul’s writings. If Hebrews is included, the number jumps to 202. Paul understood and declared the faith of Jesus the Christ. Yet, he also lived his life by faith.

He always sought to live before God with a clean conscience (Acts 23:1; 24:16). When he learned that he was, in fact, practicing sin, Paul changed his life to conform with the will of God (Acts 9, 22, 26). He then preached the Gospel that he had once sought to destroy. True faith produces a change in life that brings one in line with the Word of God.

Day Six – Friday

Luke 7:1-10; Matthew 8:5-13 (parallel passage)

The centurion was described by Jesus as a man of great faith. In fact, Jesus said that he had not found a faith so great, even in the nation of Israel – the chosen people of God. The Jewish elders claimed that this man was worthy of this miracle being done for him; but the centurion acknowledged that he was not worthy of Jesus’ coming into his house. The Jewish elders sought to take Jesus to his house; but the centurion declared that Jesus needed only to speak the word. As a leader of men, the centurion understood authority; thus, he recognized the authority of Jesus over the world. The difference between this Gentile and the Jews was stark. The difference between phony belief and true faith is just as stark.

Day Seven – Saturday

Acts 6 – 7

Read carefully the story of Stephen. He is described as a man “full of faith.” Thus, he served the church and powerfully proclaimed the Gospel. When he was opposed and threatened he continued preaching the truth. As he was being executed for teaching the truth about Jesus, he asked the Lord, “Lay not this sin to their charge.” Truly, he was “faithful unto death” (Rev. 2:10).