

session four

what is faith?

BRIEF SUMMARY OF SESSION THREE

Last session we looked at who Jesus is. We read the scripture that He is the same, yesterday, today and forever. He is the one constant in our ever changing world. Having a personal relationship with Him brings stability today and confidence for the future.

WHAT IS FAITH?

Faith is simple! Children demonstrate this every day as they believe their parents will feed them, provide and protect them from danger.

Faith is to trust, rely and depend on someone or something. If we have faith in someone, it's because we know they are trustworthy and dependable. For example, when we visit the doctor, we go in faith, believing that he or she will be able to help.



Q: *What else can we put our faith in? (think people or things)*

It's important to see that we all use faith every day - it's a normal part of life. **We trust or expect that certain things will happen before they do.** For example, we trust there will be hot water for our shower, the car will start, and the cash machine will pay out (*as long as it's been paid in!*).

WE BELIEVE IT BEFORE WE SEE IT!

A bible has a great definition of what faith is. It says: **Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.** HEBREWS 11:1

We demonstrate faith in our car when we **hope** it will start and are **sure** that it will. Our level of faith will depend on the kind of car it is! If you have a new car you will be 99% certain that it will start. However, if your granny gave you the car and it's older than she is - your faith could be 50/50! Maybe it will start, maybe it won't.

Give an example of something/someone you have strong faith in:

Give an example of something/someone you have little faith in:

In reality, every person, machine or organisation can fail. They are not perfect. They have good days and they have bad days. **God is not like that...**

He is 100% trustworthy, totally reliable and therefore He will never let you down.

The bible says the key that opens the door to God, and therefore heaven, is faith. You could have a key ring with lots of keys on it. They all look similar but only one will open your front door. You may try all the others, but they won't work. The door will remain locked. But as soon as you put the right key in the door will open.

The right key to God is called faith. Nothing else in the world will open that door. The big question is – WHAT are we to believe? **Believe (trust) in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.**

ACTS 16:31

Everyone of us needs saving! (*This means to be rescued from our life of sin and separation from God.*) Many people try to live a good life, and they think by doing so they will be accepted by God and get into heaven. This is a common mistake. Instead of trusting in Jesus, they are trusting in their own good works.



Look at an empty chair in the room: **You see this chair? Do believe this chair exists? Do you believe this chair will hold you up?** As you can see, it's not holding you up for one simple reason: *you are not sitting on it.*

Q: How could you prove that you really trust that chair?



Now let's say that the chair is symbolic of Jesus. You may believe He exists, and believe He can support you, but you are not depending on Him, because you are sitting on another chair!

There needs to be a transfer of trust from yourself to Jesus Christ for salvation (*sit on the empty chair to demonstrate*).

**Faith in God is not just believing the facts,
it's placing your dependency on Him.**

Let's clarify what it means to trust Jesus:

1. To recognize you need forgiveness for your sins and turn to Jesus for help.
2. To believe He died for you on the cross to pay the punishment for your sins.
3. To believe that He was buried, rose again from the dead and is alive today.
4. To accept Him as your Saviour and your Lord.

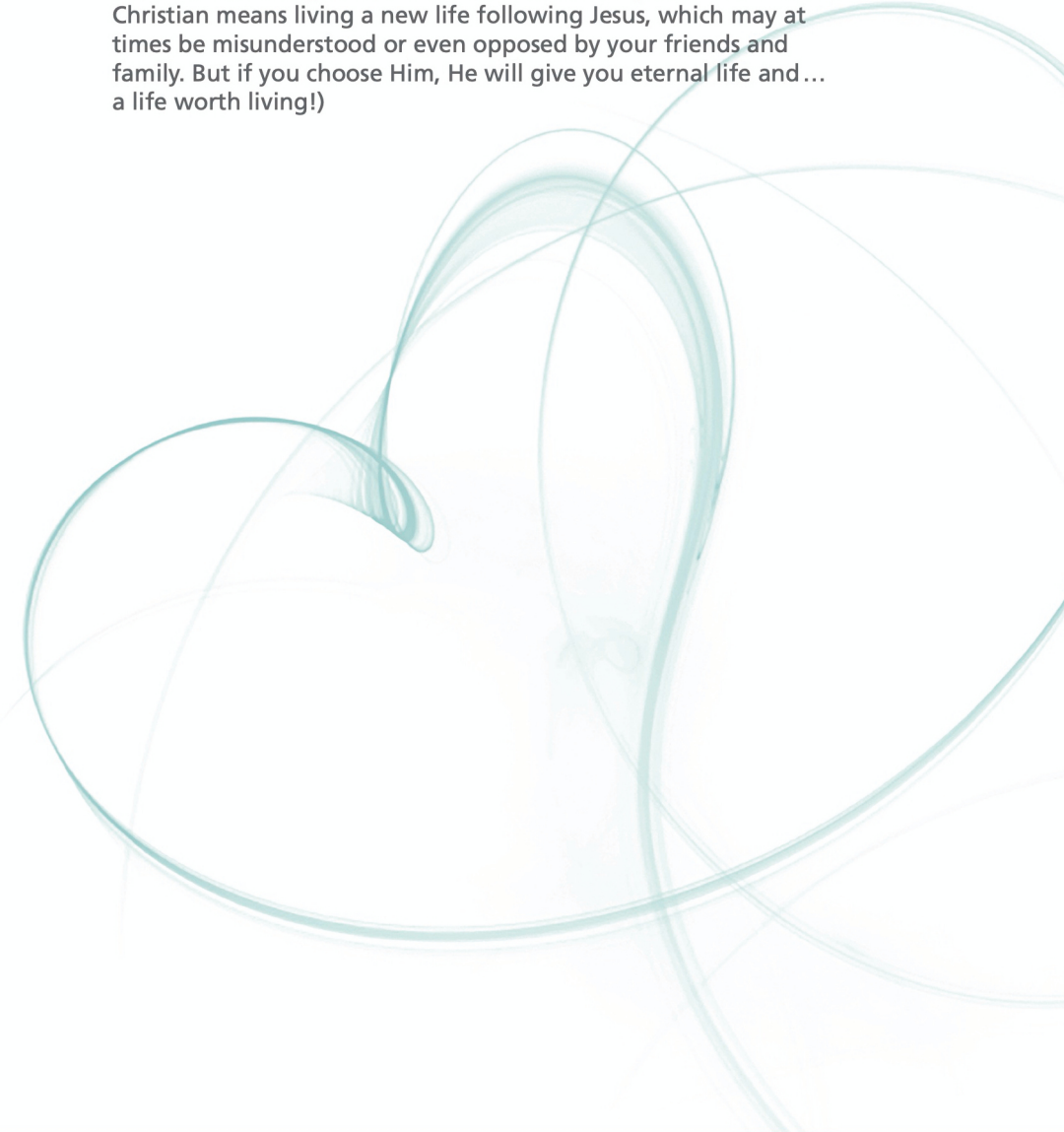
... if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. ROMANS 10:9-10

Let's use another illustration:

PICTURE A THRONE ROOM IN YOUR HEART.

Jesus wants His rightful place on that throne as Lord of your life. If you are willing to believe and give your life to Him, He will come into your heart and be with you forever.

(There is one thing we need to mention at this point: to become a Christian means living a new life following Jesus, which may at times be misunderstood or even opposed by your friends and family. But if you choose Him, He will give you eternal life and... a life worth living!)



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Faith is simple but powerful. It is the key which opens the door to God! Remember the chair? All you have to do is accept Him and depend on Him alone. If you would like to receive Jesus right now you can pray this prayer of acceptance and commitment:

“Jesus, I am sorry for the things I have done wrong in my life. Please forgive me. I want to turn away now from those sins and turn to You. Thank-You that You died on the cross for me, so that I can be forgiven and have a new beginning, a new life. I accept You as my Saviour and Lord. Take Your right place in my heart and life. Amen.”

It’s as simple as that! If you prayed this and meant it, you have now become a Christian and begun a new and exciting life with God.

NOTE: You may not feel ready to pray this prayer yet. That’s OK. Do read over the notes. This is the most important discovery of your life – it’s worth pursuing!