

**A 7-session program exploring  
the concept of faith through the stories  
of some Old and New Testament characters.**





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*Heroes of Faith* is one of the **kids@club** resources that forms part of the **kids@church** Bible-based curriculum designed by CEP especially for use in church-based children's ministry.

*Heroes of Faith* is a revision of an earlier version written by Sue Farrell and Owen Shelley and edited by Robyn McKinney of *Clubs Down Under* also produced by CEP.

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## CD-ROM

### Songs

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2. Faith is
3. Remember the Lord
4. I will be with you
5. Faith in a great God
6. In God's hands
7. God's way
8. Where you go
9. God looks at the heart
10. Keep the faith
11. God loves his people

### PowerPoints

1. Memory verse – Proverbs 3:5–6
2. **Heroes of Faith** Character slides
3. Colour Visual aids for Bibletime 2
4. Hi, Spy! Quiz questions
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### Graphic files

1. Joshua crossing the Jordan
2. The Promised Land
3. Living in the Promised Land
4. Gideon leading his men
5. Ruth picking barley

6. David, the shepherd boy
7. David and Goliath
8. King David
9. Jairus and his daughter
10. Flat roof houses in the time of Jesus
11. Jesus
12. David
13. Caleb
14. Rahab
15. Gideon
16. Ruth
17. David playing harp
18. Goliath
19. David as an adult
20. King David



## Hi!

This program is one of the **kids@club** series, by Christian Education Publications (CEP), for **Australasian** kids in a kids' club setting. We're sure that you will find it really helpful as you plan a program to suit the specific needs of your group.

## Our aims

kids@club products are strongly committed to bringing **the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ** to primary school children and to **making the Word of God relevant** to their daily lives.

All of the programs have been written by experienced club leaders who have worked with a wide range of kids in a variety of settings. Many of the program ideas are 'tried and true' – some of them many times over – so the wrinkles have been ironed out.

## Help with Bible talks

We have given you lots of help with the Bible teaching segment. This will free you up to spend more time praying for your club members and thinking creatively about how to present your program. Nothing stifles creativity like the grind of having to prepare a fresh talk every week of term!

## What's in the pack?

Within each pack you will find a **Bible teaching outline** for each session, **visual aids** and suggestions for **music, craft and games**. Leader-training articles on Memorising Scripture and Parent and family contact are also included, or ideas for extending the program an extra week or two. Plus a **CD-ROM** with songs, PowerPoint presentations and graphic files of coloured visual aids you can use to enhance your Bible teaching.

## You may photocopy

You may photocopy any of the Visual aids or photocopiable activity pages for use within your own club only. We are sure you will want to **promote this material** with other clubs and encourage them to purchase this material for their own use.

## Your ideas

Finally, we would like some **feedback** on this program. Let us know how it went, what ideas it stimulated in you and so on. This will enable us to make the next edition even better!

We'd also like to hear from you **if you have planned and run a successful program in your kids' club** and would be happy for it to be made available to the wider Australian and New Zealand community of kids' clubs.

May God bless you and the children in your club as you discover together the marvellous truths of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rhonda Watson

# Leaders' notes

Faith makes us sure of what we hope for and gives us proof of what we can't see. **Hebrews 11:1 (CEV)**

This program aims to develop the children's concept of faith, using examples of people from both the Old and New Testaments who exercised faith in a variety of situations.

Some, like Gideon and David, faced physical conflict, others, like Ruth, acted in faith in their personal relationships.

As faith is often misunderstood, let's get it right ourselves.

The epistles depict faith as  
knowing  
believing  
and obeying  
the truth (**Titus 1:1,2; 2 Thessalonians 2:13**).  
*The Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*

This threefold definition of knowing, believing and obeying (or trusting) is woven into the fabric of each of the lesson outlines.

Through constant reference to this definition it is hoped that the children will gain an understanding of what faith entails and will be encouraged to exercise faith towards God through the Lord Jesus. It is important to note that knowledge is an essential ingredient of faith, otherwise we could not 'be sure' and 'certain' of the result.

Faith is based upon knowledge. It is not a step in the dark, but a step in the light.

It is for this reason that we teach children Bible truths, for 'no one can have faith without hearing the message about Christ' (**Romans 10:17**).

The foundation upon which our faith rests is the character of God.

The Bible view's faith's convictions as certainties and equates them with knowledge (**1 John 3:2; 5:18-20**) not because they spring from supposedly self-authenticating mystical experience, but because they rest on the testimony of a God who 'cannot lie' (**Titus 1:2**) and is therefore utterly trustworthy.  
*The Evangelical Dictionary of Theology*

Caleb was confident that he could defeat the giant sons of Anak. His confidence was based on his knowledge of God's promise. 'The LORD will help me take their land, just as he promised' (**Joshua 14:12**).

David's confidence was due to his experience of the Lord's enabling in the past. 'The LORD has rescued me from the claws of lions and bears, and he will keep me safe from the hands of this Philistine' (**1 Samuel 17:37**).

Rahab hid the Israelite spies because she had heard of the Lord's mighty acts and believed that their God 'rules heaven and earth'. She had no doubts that the Israelites would be able to conquer Jericho with the assistance of such a powerful God (**Joshua 2:11**).

Gideon may appear to be less confident but his apprehension was not that God lacked the ability to defeat the Midianites but that he might not be willing to. His complaint to the angel was 'the LORD has abandoned us to the Midianites' (**Judges 6:13**).

The God that these people trusted is the same God who invites our trust today.

There are seven **Bible time** teaching segments included in this pack. Each one reinforces the definition of faith that we are building up and also highlights a characteristic of God or of Jesus that might encourage and nurture faith in the children.

As well as this teaching, we have given ideas on how to present and teach each segment of the Memory verse (**Proverbs 3:5–7**). You will need to decide where in your program you will include this.

The **Music suggestions** include several songs that develop the concept of faith and there are some 'trust' games included in the **Games suggestions** which you could use to enhance your Bible teaching.



## Using the CD-ROM

On the CD-ROM included with this program you will find eight songs which reinforce the themes taught in the Bible teaching. The songs can be played using a normal CD player.

There are also the following files that may be accessed using your computer:

- Graphic files in jpeg format
- Graphic PowerPoint (graphic files in PowerPoint format)
- Song PowerPoints (song words in PowerPoint format).

The graphic files should open easily in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint or other graphic software. If you have trouble opening the graphics check the software you are using to open them.

On the graphic files in jpeg format you will find nine full-colour posters that you can display using a data projector or print off on a colour printer.

Use the coloured posters to enhance your Bible teaching and also as a reminder for the children of the things they have already covered in previous sessions. You may wish to make a display wall and hang each poster as you refer to the material it displays. By the end of the program the children will then have a visual reminder of all they have learnt about 'walking in the light'.

## 'Dress the space' ideas

Children learn best in an interesting environment. Try to be creative and allow the children to help you as much as possible.

You could print off and display the coloured graphic files on the CD-ROM of the characters you will be learning about from the Bible – Jesus, Caleb, Ruth, Gideon, David. You could also print off and display the coloured posters.

Make some large outline letters for **F-A-I-T-H** and have the children decorate them with paints, crayons or scraps of coloured paper.



# 'If only I could touch him ...'

A sick woman shows faith in Jesus

Luke 8:40–56

## Aim

To introduce the concept of faith as knowing, believing and trusting.

## Outcomes

By the end of this session the children will:

- know a definition of faith as knowing, believing and trusting
- understand how Jesus reacted to faith in some of the people he encountered
- be encouraged to think about putting their faith in God and his son, Jesus.

## Key verse

With all your heart you must trust the LORD.  
**Proverbs 3:5a (CEV)**

## You will need

- A large sheet of paper (see **Way to go**)
- Artist's crayons or marker pens (they need to be thick)
- Props for the characters in the story (see **Way to go**)
- Heroes of Faith** CD-ROM and CD player
- Jairus and his daughter** poster on **Heroes of Faith** CD-ROM

## Leader's notes

Before launching into a series based mainly on Old Testament characters who demonstrated faith in action, it seems appropriate to commence with a New Testament example. This enables us to focus attention on the Lord Jesus as the one who should be the object of our faith today.

As children enjoy stories about other children, the lesson commences with a hypothetical story about a boy waiting for his father. This is based on a real-life example of a boy about seven or eight years of age who wandered away from his family at a football club outing in the Royal National Park near Heathcote (NSW). Unable to find his way back, he found an overhanging rock and settled down to wait, confident that his father would come looking for him. This action, instead of wandering about trying to find his own way out, was praised as very sensible.

## Way to go

### Narrative with mime









While telling the narrative in this session the children will be interacting with the story by miming the actions as they unfold. You may wish to provide some simple props for the four main characters – Jesus (a dressing gown and tea-towel head cover), the sick woman (a large head-scarf), Jairus (a fancy coat) and the messenger (a cap).

As the remainder of the children will be playing the part of the crowd, you may wish to make a few quick signs to prompt them as follows:

**Welcome back**  
**It's good to see you**  
**Oh, no!**  
**Ha! Ha!**

In this session, you will make a **Faith** poster to use in this and all future sessions. There are two options for making this poster.

**Option 1:** On a large sheet of paper, draw up frames for 'lightning letters' (see page 11). You will fill in the letters later in the session; so your chart will look like this:

  
  
  
**and**   
  
  
  
  
**and** 

**Option 2:** If you want a quicker option than the lightning letters, use a fill-in-the-gaps activity and write the same sentence onto a large sheet of paper leaving out many of the individual letters and allowing the children to guess what the missing letters are.

## Introduction

Welcome the children. Introduce yourself and the other leaders.

Open with prayer.



### Song

**Psalm 118:14**, track 1 of CEP's *Heroes of Faith* CD-ROM.

### Game

Play a few quick rounds of the game **What/Who is it?** See **Games suggestions** page 72.

I'm going to tell you a story.

When John's father dropped him at the oval for his soccer game, he said, 'I'll be back to pick you up after the game. If I'm not here when the game finishes, wait for me at the main gate'.

For the next hour, John was busy playing soccer. After the game, he got changed, but his father hadn't arrived. So John went to the gate to wait for his father.

Cars came and went, picking up the other players, and soon the oval was deserted. John's coach was worried but John told him he was sure his dad would come.

'Dad said to wait here. He'll come!'

Half an hour passed, no sign of his dad.

An hour, still nothing.

Soon it began to get dark, but John didn't move. His father had said 'I'll be back to pick you up', and that was good enough for John.

Finally, after nearly two hours, he saw his father's car come around the corner and he ran to meet it.

'Son, I'm so sorry. My car broke down and I had to wait for road service. I've been so worried about you', his dad said.

'It's okay, Dad. I knew you would come', replied John.

**John had faith in his father.**

Display your **Faith** poster and use your preferred option to discover the definition of faith on your chart.

**Faith is**  
**knowing,**  
**believing**  
**and trusting.**

**John knew he had been told to wait at the main gate. If his father hadn't given him any instructions, he might not have been so sure of what to do and he may have tried to find some other way of getting home. John believed that his father would come, because his father always kept his word. So John trusted his father's word, and waited where he was told.**

## Bible time

Explain to the children that you are going to tell them another story – this time from the Bible and you need them to help you.

As you tell the following story, you need some children to pretend to be the characters in the story and mime the actions. Remind the children that they will need to listen very carefully so they know what actions they are to mime.



Choose four volunteers to play the parts of Jesus, the sick woman, Jairus and the messenger. The rest of the children are to play the part of the crowd.

Hand out the props for each of the characters and if you have decided to make the signs to prompt the crowd, then choose another 1 or 2 volunteers to hold up the signs when appropriate.

**In the Bible, we read about a woman who was very sick.**

**She had suffered from illness for 12 years, and none of the doctors had been able to help her.**

**She was very miserable.**

Child playing woman walks in slowly looking very sad.

**On one particular day, there was great excitement in her village. Jesus had returned and the people welcomed him with open arms.**

**'It's good to see you!' they cried. 'Welcome back!'**

Encourage the children to repeat these two phrases as the child playing Jesus walks in. Use the signs as prompts.

**'It's good to see you!'**

**'Welcome back!'**

**An important man named Jairus rushed up and fell at Jesus' feet.**

Child playing Jairus runs in.

**'Please come home with me', he begged. 'My little girl is ill. I think she's going to die.'**

What do you think the people said now?

Encourage the children to follow the prompts and say:

**'Oh, no!'**

**Jesus could hardly move down the road because the crowd was pressing in on him from every side.**

**When the sick woman heard that the Lord Jesus was in the crowd, her hopes began to rise. She knew about Jesus. Everyone in the village did. She believed that if she could get close enough to touch him, she would be made well. So she pushed her way through the crowd until she could just reach the hem of Jesus' cloak, and she touched it.**

**Immediately she was made well.**

**'Who touched me?' Jesus asked.**

**'Not me', said the people close by.**

**Jesus' friend, Peter, said, 'Master, people are crowding all around and pushing you from every side'.**

**But Jesus answered, 'Someone touched me, because I felt power going out from me'.**

**The woman was very afraid that she might get into trouble.**

Encourage the children to follow the prompts and say:

**'Oh, no!'**

**But she knew she couldn't hide, so she came trembling and knelt down in front of Jesus. She told everyone why she had touched him and that she had been healed straightaway.**

**Jesus said to the woman, 'You're now well because of your faith. May God give you peace!'**

**Because the woman knew about Jesus, she believed that he could heal her, and so she trusted that he would. She was right.**

Refer to the definition of faith on your chart.

**Faith is**  
knowing,  
believing,  
and trusting.

**The Lord Jesus wants you to have faith in him to save you, just as that woman did.**

**Jairus had believed that the Lord Jesus could heal his sick daughter, but when one of his servants arrived with the message that his daughter had died. His heart sank.**

Child playing the messenger runs in and gives message to Jairus.

Encourage the children to follow the prompts and say:

**'Oh, no!'**

**Obviously there was nothing that could be done for her now.**

**'Don't worry! Have faith, and your daughter will get well', Jesus told him gently.**

**Jesus went into the house. Everyone was crying and weeping for the girl.**

Encourage the children to follow the prompts and say:

**'Oh, no!'**

**But Jesus said, 'The child isn't dead. She's just asleep'.**

**The people laughed at him, because they knew she was dead.**

Encourage the children to follow the prompts and say:

**'Ha! Ha!'**

**Jesus took hold of the girl's hand and said, 'Child, get up!'**

**The girl came back to life and got straight up. Jesus told them to give her something to eat.**

**Her father was very surprised!**

## Conclusion

The reaction of Jairus was one of astonishment when he saw his daughter restored to life.

Could anyone who saw it doubt that Jesus was the Son of God?

Jesus invites us to put our faith in him, too. That is really worth thinking about, isn't it?

What is faith?

Refer to the **Faith** chart and have the children say the definition with you.

**Faith is**  
    **knowing,**  
        **believing,**  
            **and trusting.**

Thank all the children for helping you tell the story. Remind them that this is only one of many stories we read in the Bible about people having faith.

## Song

Learn and sing.

**Psalm 118:14**, track 1 of CEP's *Heroes of faith* CD-ROM.

**Faith is**, track 2 of CEP's *Heroes of faith* CD-ROM.

## Closing prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you that we can learn so much about you from the Bible. Help us to understand what it means to have faith in you. Amen.

## Game

Play one or two of the **Trust games** (see **Games suggestions**, page 71).

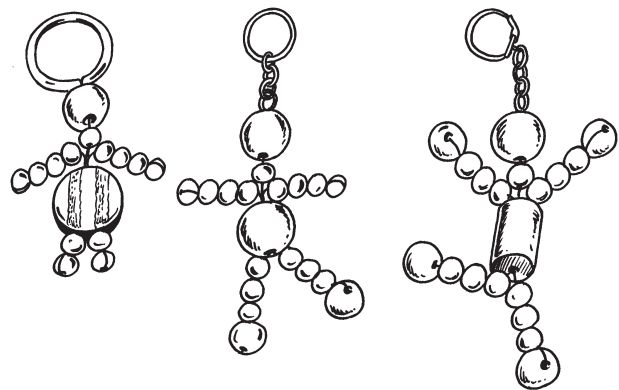
## Key verse

Introduce the first part of the Key verse to the children. Write it out on a large sheet of paper and have the children say it after you a few times. Cover the verse and see who can say it from memory.

**With all your heart you must trust the LORD.**  
**Proverbs 3:5a (CEV)**

## Craft

**Bead men** (see **Craft suggestions**, page 77).



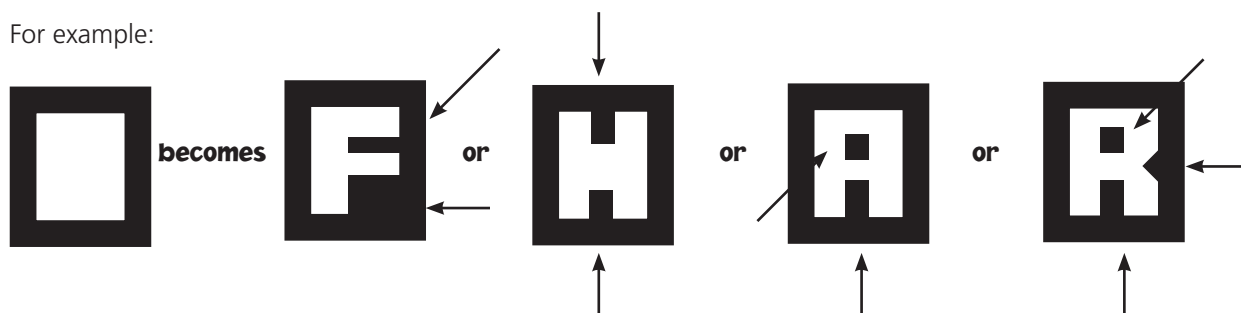
# LIGHTNING LETTERS

This is a way of making words appear quickly, and as if by magic. **Thick** pens or crayons are needed.

You have one thick square frame for each letter (except the letter 'l' which has half a square frame). The frames can be joined together or separated.

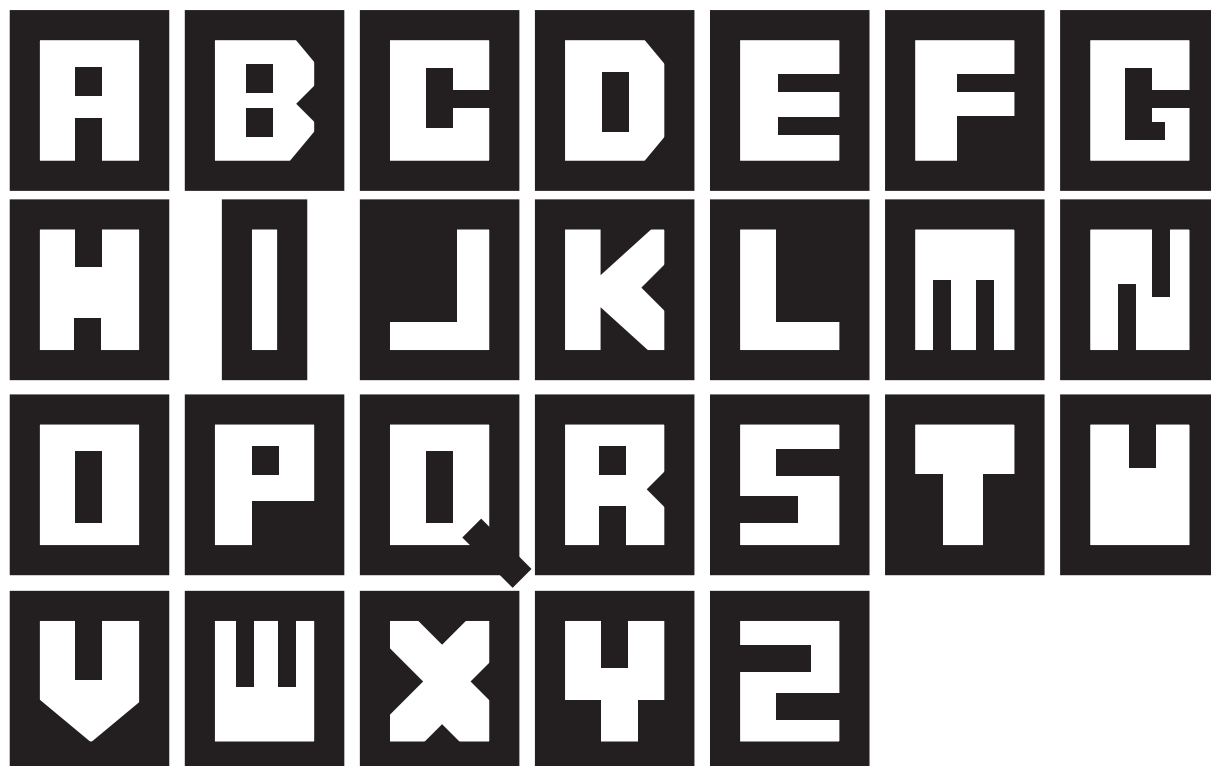
By adding two or three thick strokes to a square, you make a white letter appear.

For example:



To start, you may like to pencil lightly where the strokes are to go. You will soon be able to do it quickly with no pencil strokes.

Here's the whole alphabet:



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The purchaser of the *Heroes of Faith* manual is entitled to photocopy this page for use with his or her group.