



FAITH

Taking God at His Word

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1

HEALING OF THE NOBLEMAN'S SON

Scripture to be studied: John 4:46-54

The *aim* of the lesson: To teach your students that faith is (1) believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and taking Him at His word, (2) believing without seeing, (3) involves obedience.

What your students should *know*: God and His precious Son are completely trustworthy.

What your students should *feel*: An earnest desire to put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

What your students should *do*: Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God and receive Him as Saviour.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. The nobleman decides to ask Jesus for help (John 4:46).
2. The nobleman goes to Jesus (John 4:47).
3. The nobleman believes what Jesus says (John 4:47-50).
4. The servants report the son is healed (John 4:51-54).
5. The man sees his son is healed.

The verses to be memorized:

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God—not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Please study carefully the teacher's material which appears on page 2.

THE LESSON

Our memory verses say we are "saved through faith"—faith which is "the gift of God." Let us think for a moment of the word *faith*. Exactly what does it mean? (*Teacher*: Have a discussion.) Suppose you wanted to explain *faith* to someone else; what object could you use to help another know the meaning of *faith*? (Give students time to think about this and listen to their suggestions.)

Now let me tell you how a Bible teacher explains the meaning of faith. "I am quite tired and I want to sit down on this chair and rest. (You may use "bench" or "log" or whatever you use in your classroom.) But I do not know whether or not I can trust this chair. It looks like a good chair. It appears to be solid. I think it would hold me. But I am still a bit doubtful. Have any of you sat on this chair? Did it hold you? It did? But I still wonder if it will hold me . . . I shall never get any rest from this chair until I am willing to trust it and sit down. (Do so now.)"

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If you want rest from sin, you must be willing to trust the Lord Jesus Christ. Trusting Him means to have faith in Him.¹

Listen carefully so you will learn from the Word of God how one man used faith. Then, at the close of the lesson, you can write in your notebook the truths you have learned about faith.

1. THE NOBLEMAN DECIDES TO ASK JESUS FOR HELP

John 4:46

Show Illustration #1



In the city of Capernaum lived a nobleman, an officer of the king. This nobleman had plenty of money, a fine home and servants. He also had a son whom he loved very much. He took special care of his son, hoping he, too, would some day become an officer of the king.

But something happened which caused the nobleman great sadness. His son became sick, tossing with a high fever. The boy would die unless somewhere a cure could be found. But where? Who was wise enough to know how to control the fever? Not one in Capernaum could make the sick boy well.

2. THE NOBLEMAN GOES TO JESUS

John 4:47

When all hope seemed gone, the father decided to go to the great Miracle Worker, the Lord Jesus Christ. The man had no understanding of the true nature of the Lord Jesus. He had not been taught (as you have) that Jesus is the Son of God. But he did feel that Jesus was One who could help. He had doubtless

heard that, at a wedding in his own province of Galilee, the Lord Jesus turned water to wine. *If the Lord Jesus can do such a miracle, the nobleman reasoned, He can surely heal my son.*

Now Jesus was in Cana—about 25 miles (40 kilometers) away from the Capernaum home of the nobleman. That is a long distance. (*Teacher: Mention some village which is 25 miles from your own so your students will have an idea as to the distance between Capernaum and Cana.*)

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Before you can teach any doctrinal truth, you must clearly understand that doctrine. Therefore, before teaching these lessons, please make a Biblical study of *faith*. We all use ordinary faith every day: we walk across a bridge because we believe it will hold us; we accept a glass of water and drink it because we believe it is water. All faith—even the ordinary kind we use each day—comes from God. He has made us in such a way that we have faith. When anyone has *saving faith* in the Lord Jesus, it is: (1) because of the work of God; and (2) because a person's entire personality is at work.

Here is an excellent outline for your teacher's notebook:

FAITH

Another word for faith is belief. The New Testament uses these two words about 150 times. Always the meaning is the same: a sinner is declared to be saved by *believing*—or by having *faith*.

God alone saves the soul.

God saves only through the sacrifice of His Son.

A person can be saved only by believing the message of God.

Believing is the opposite of doing.

Study these verses in the Gospel of John: 1:12; 3:16, 36; 5:24; 6:29; 20:31; also Acts 16:31; Romans 1:16; 3:22; 4:5, 24; 5:1; 10:4; Galatians 3:22.

I. In the exercise of true faith, the whole personality is involved:

A. *Knowledge* is necessary. (See Romans 10:13-17.)

1. We must know *what* and *whom* to believe.
2. Faith rests upon the Word of God.

Knowledge alone, however, is not enough. So:

B. *Assent* is necessary. (See Matthew 9:28.)

We must give assent to our knowledge.

Having *knowledge* of certain truths, and giving *assent* of the mind to those truths is not enough. So:

C. *Appropriation* is necessary. (See John 1:12.)

I myself must take possession of the things which I know, believing them for myself.

II. True Biblical faith is used in connection with:

A. *God* (Study Hebrews 11:6; Acts 27:22-25; Romans 4:19-21; Genesis 15:4-6.)

1. We must have absolute faith in the existence of God.
2. Faith believes all God says is absolutely true.

B. *The Lord Jesus Christ*

1. There must be a *knowledge* of His claims. (Study John 9:35-38; John 10:30; Philippians 2:6-11.)
2. There must be an *assent* to His claims. (Study John 16:30; 20:28; Matthew 16:16; John 6:68-69.)
After we have the knowledge that Jesus is able to save and that He is the Saviour of the world, we must give assent to our knowledge.
3. There must be a personal *appropriation* of Christ.

(See John 1:12.)

We not only believe *about* Christ, we must turn ourselves over to Christ. (That is, surrendering to a Person, not to mere faith in a creed.)

C. *Prayer* (See 1 John 5:14-15.)

1. There must be *knowledge* of the promises on which we base our prayers.
2. We must believe (*assenting* in the mind) that the promises are for us. (See Romans 4:20.)
3. We must *appropriate* the promises. (See James 1:5-7.)

Real faith thanks God for the thing asked for (if it is in accord with the will of God), even before receiving it. (See Mark 11:24.)

III. The Source of Faith

Where does faith come from?

A. It is from God.

1. God the Father (See Romans 12:3.)
2. God the Son (See Hebrews 12:2.)
3. God the Spirit (See Galatians 5:22.)

B. There is a human side of faith. (See Romans 10:17.)

Faith is produced by having a knowledge of the Word of God and the God of the Word.

Our faith grows by using the faith we already have. (See Luke 17:5-6.)

We not only believe about Christ, we must turn ourselves over to Christ. (That is, surrendering to a Person, not to mere faith in a creed.)

C. *Prayer*. (See 1 John 5:14-15.)

1. There must be knowledge of the promises on which we base our prayers.
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Real faith thanks God for the thing asked for (if it is in accord with the will of God), even before receiving it. (See Mark 11:24.)

IV. The Results of Faith

A. We are saved by faith. (Study John 1:12; Romans 5:1; Galatians 3:26; Acts 26:18; 1 Peter 1:5.)

B. We have rest, peace, assurance and joy. (See Isaiah 26:3; Romans 5:1; John 14:1; 1 Peter 1:8.)

Now study carefully the text for the first lesson on *faith*: John 4:46-54.

In Lesson #1 you will introduce the subject of *faith*, explaining that:

1. Faith is believing in the Lord Jesus Christ and taking Him at His word.
2. Faith is believing without seeing.
3. Faith involves obedience.
God, His Son and His Word are completely trustworthy.



Show Illustration #2

It probably took the man most of two days to walk to Cana. As he went, he wondered: *Will Jesus still be in Cana when I get there? Will He take time to listen to me? Will He really be able to make my son well? If only I could get there faster! Will I be too late?*

3. THE NOBLEMAN BELIEVES WHAT JESUS SAYS

John 4:47-50



Show Illustration #3

At last he arrived in Cana. When he found Jesus, the nobleman begged: "Please come to Capernaum and heal my son. He is about to die." Imagine that! He wanted the Lord Jesus to go 25 long miles to do something for his son.

The man was surprised when the Lord Jesus answered, "You will not believe in Me unless you see a miracle."

The Lord Jesus wants to be trusted. He wanted the man to believe that He is the Son of God. To have faith in the Lord Jesus as Saviour is the most important thing in life. It is far more important than to be healed.

The poor father was so fearful of losing his son that he did not seem to understand what the Lord Jesus meant. So he exclaimed, "Come, before my child dies!" The nobleman believed the Miracle Worker, Jesus, could do something if he could get Him to his son.

The Lord Jesus looked with pity on the man. "You may go home," He said. "Your son is alive and well."

Alive and well! The nobleman could scarcely believe it. How could it be true? How could Jesus have healed his son far away? But the nobleman did not question Jesus. The Lord had said his son was alive and well. And the nobleman believed Him. First, he believed Jesus could heal the boy if Jesus could get to him. Then he believed Jesus could make him well even though the boy was far away.

4. THE SERVANTS REPORT THE SON IS HEALED

John 4:51-54

Happily the nobleman started home. One mile, two, then three. On and on he went the rest of the day. The next morning he hurried faster than ever.



Show Illustration #4

As he neared Capernaum, he saw his servants rushing to him. "Your son is alive and well!" they shouted.

"When did it happen? When did he start to get better?" the nobleman demanded.

"Yesterday afternoon at one o'clock his fever left him."

The nobleman exclaimed, "That is exactly the hour when Jesus said, 'You may go home. Your son is alive and well!'"

5. THE MAN SEES HIS SON IS HEALED

Show Illustration #5



He rushed to his home and saw his son completely well again. Do you think the man told the boy and his family and the servants what had happened? Indeed he did! He told them about the Miracle Worker Jesus. He told them all that the Lord Jesus and he had said to each other. He could have explained:

First: I believed if Jesus could get here, He could heal my son.

Second: I believed *the word of Jesus* when He told me my son was well.

Third: Now I believe *in Jesus*. I believe He is the Son of God. I receive Him as my own Saviour.

The people in his house listened to all the nobleman said. And then—right then—everyone in the house did the most important thing in life: they believed in Jesus, the Son of God. They had faith. Do *you* believe in Him?