

## Faith in Action

**Purpose:** To create in the students the desire to have great faith and begin to apply principles for having great faith in their lives.

**Objectives:** By the end of the lesson the students will:

1. Have learned examples of great faith.
2. Be able to identify factors that are similar in having great faith.
3. Willingly begin to apply principles for having great faith in their lives.

**Key verse:** Hebrews 11:1

### I. Introduction

*Before telling the following story, create a picture of “hungry, orphaned children” and allow the group to discuss, for a couple of minutes, how to solve this crisis. Have them identify feelings and emotions they would have if they were in the same situation. This should begin to bring them to make an emotional commitment to demonstrating great faith.*

In the Bible we see examples of people with varying degrees of faith. In present day life we see the same thing. It just seems like some people have more faith than others. George Mueller was a man of great faith. During the nineteenth century he ran several orphanages in London, England. There were times when there was no food on the breakfast table and many hungry children waiting to be fed. God always provided. One time as they sat down to eat waiting upon the Lord to provide, a knock sounded at the door. Standing there was a milk delivery man. His cart had broken down and he came to ask if they needed any milk. God had once again provided.

### II. What is Faith?

Hebrews 11:1 reads, “Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.” Faith for George Mueller and the children who were in the orphanages that he ran was thanking God for food that was not yet on the table. It was being sure that it was going to arrive. There is a certainty about things that will happen even though we cannot see evidence of them at the time.

### III. Biblical Examples of Great Faith

*(Read Matthew 8:5-10 & 15:22-2.)*

*(In order to make the idea of great faith more real, have some of the students act out the parts of*

*the centurion and the woman and Jesus. This will help them see great faith in action, which is how you want them to respond to this devotion.)*

- A. What do these two people have in common? *(Some of the answers might be that they were both Gentiles. They both had loved ones that they wanted to be healed. They both were commended for having great faith. They both came to Jesus because they knew that He could heal people. Jesus healed both of the people from a distance.)*
  
- B. What were some of the differences about the two people asking Jesus for a miracle? *(One was a man and one was a woman. The man had a prominent position in the Roman army; the woman seems to be an ordinary woman. Jesus' reaction toward the two was very different.)*
  
- C. Until now in Jesus' ministry He had only healed at a distance one other time. It is amazing that two of the first three miracles of this type happened to Gentiles.

#### **IV. How Can We Have Great Faith?**

- A. We can ask for it as the disciples did (see Luke 17:5-6). The Lord answered them that they only needed faith the size of a mustard seed and it would be enough to move mountains. In the context we see that Jesus was referring to relationships, which are the most difficult areas in which to trust God. He can even work in those areas.
  
- B. The object of faith is that which needs to be great. The two Gentiles mentioned above had this in common. They believed that **Jesus** was able to heal at any time and place. Faith in oneself does not hold up. The better we know God, the greater our faith will be in Him because He is such a great God.
  
- C. If you are having problems having great faith, perhaps it is because the Word of God is not changing your attitude toward God. Romans 10:17 reads, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." If we want our faith to grow we must have daily input from God's Word. This will help us know better the great God of the Universe who is the source of our faith.
  
- D. This lost and dying world needs more people who have great faith. It needs people who have faith in a great God. Are you ready to be that kind of person?
  
- E. Evaluate: How is your faith gauge? Are there thought patterns that need to be changed in order to have great faith? Write down one specific area of application and discuss that with the person next to you.