



Open it

1. What is a dream that you hope comes true?

Daily Devotions

Day 1

Today's Theme: Explore It

Read Hebrews 11:1-3

2. How is faith defined?
3. What did people of old receive when they had faith?
4. How was the universe created?

Day 2

Today's Theme: A Sure Thing

Read Hebrews 11:1

As a middle school or high school student, you have hopes and dreams! You hope that you'll get into the college of your choice and then land your dream job. You dream of marrying the perfect person and raising a family full of children who love the Lord. You hope that you'll have good health and financial stability for all of your life. Those are all good things to hope and dream about, but none of those hopes are guaranteed!

Hebrews 11:1 says, "*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*" Faith in the person of God and His promises is a guaranteed hope, and what He says is always true and guaranteed to happen! It's not wishful thinking! For example, God promises to never leave you or forsake you (Hebrews 13:5); God promises to not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear and that He always provides a way of escape (1 Cor 10:13); God promises eternal life to those who trust in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for their sins (John 3:16).

I love the hymn "On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand," written by Edward Mote in 1834. Reflect on the lyrics below and ask yourself if these words are true for your life?

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name.

On Christ the solid Rock I stand,
All other ground is sinking sand;
All other ground is sinking sand.

5. **Why is hope in anyone or anything else but Jesus "sinking sand"? What things instead of Jesus do people place their hope in?**

6. **How would you respond if a friend at school asked you this question, "You can't see God, so how do you know that He is real?"**

Day 3

Today's Theme: Amazing Faith

Read Hebrews 11:2

When you read the gospels, there are two times that Jesus is amazed, and both times it refers to faith! In Mark 6:1–7, Jesus is amazed at the lack of faith of the people in His hometown, Nazareth, and because of their lack of faith, He could not do many miracles except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. Mark 6:7 (NIV) says, “*He was amazed at their lack of faith.*”

The other time when Jesus is amazed is with the faith of the centurion in Luke 7:1–10, where the centurion sends elders and friends to humbly ask Jesus to heal his sick servant. Jesus said in Luke 7:9 (NIV), “*When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, ‘I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.’*”

Hebrews 11:2 (ESV), says, “*For by it the people of old received their commendation.*” In essence, the Lord was amazed at the faith of the people that we read about in the Bible!

7. Think through the heroes of the faith that we see in the Bible. How do you see them demonstrating amazing faith?

8. What habits and experiences can help you develop amazing faith?

Day 4

Today's Theme: How Did Everything Get Here?

Read Hebrews 11:3

If you attend a public school, chances are you have been taught the world's view, that everything began with a tiny atom that exploded with a big bang, and then over millions and millions of years life started evolving. This theory of how everything came into existence is called evolution, and people who hold to this view say that science supports evolution. However, they are mistaken because they don't understand the scientific method. The scientific method starts with a hypothesis, then you perform an experiment, then you make observations, and finally you draw conclusions. Every time you repeat the experiment under the same conditions, you will get the same results. For example, every time you place a bar of ivory soap in room temperature water (77 degrees), it floats.

Evolution is not a repeatable process. It was a one-time event that scientists claim began with a "big bang." Therefore, evolution cannot be scientifically proven, because, just like creation, it is claimed to be a one-time, non-repeatable historical event. In contrast to evolution, the Bible says that God created everything! Creation is a one-time historical event! So whether you hold to evolution or the creation view, both take faith. It actually takes more faith to believe that everything came about by evolution than to believe that God created everything by speaking everything into existence!

Hebrews 11:3 (ESV) says, *"By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."*

9. What part of God's creation do you enjoy the most? Why do you enjoy this part of God's creation so much?

10. How would you lovingly defend that God spoke everything into existence and created everything?