

Lesson 6 – Religious Identity - Growing in Personal Faith

What is Religious Belief?

Religious Belief is a set of ideas that people have about God.



What is Religious Practice?

Religious Practice consists of the things and activities people do to express their BELIEF. When we have faith in God, we feel the need to express it, to help us honor God. Some ways we express our faith is:

- Rituals
- Sacraments
- Prayers
- Gestures
- Symbols
- Attending religious services
- Celebrating religious festivals

Every Religion has its own set of symbols, statements of belief, traditions, practice, celebrations, etc.

What is Faith?

Faith is complete trust or confidence in someone or something.

Faith is not being able to see but trusting the one that can see.

David trusted God to fight the battle for him

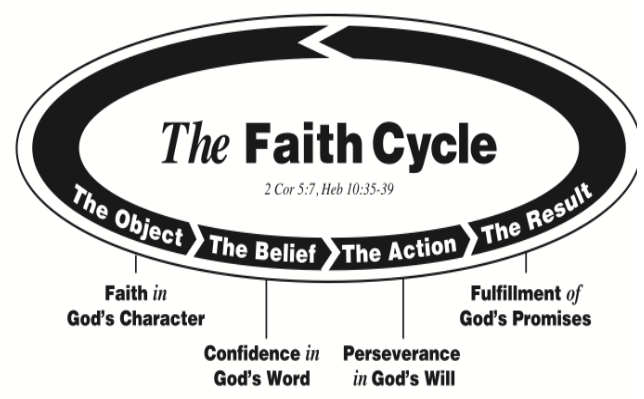
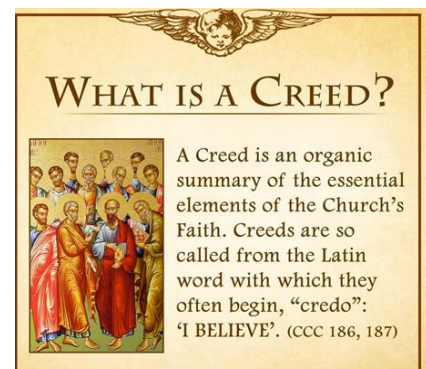
David and Goliath
I SAMUEL 17:4 -54



“You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts”.. 1 Samuel 17:45

Where are central beliefs in Christianity summarized?

Central beliefs in Christianity are summarized in “The Apostles Creed” & “The Nicene Creed”



We call our belief and trust in God the act of Faith.

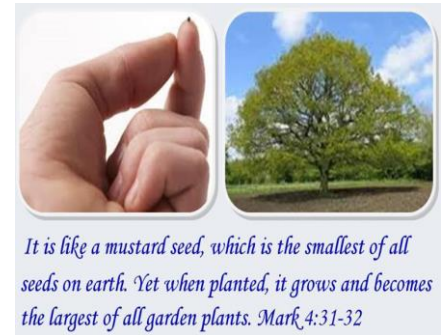
When the Bible talks about faith in God it means that we have put all our confidence, trust and hope in him.

The power of faith is that we obey even when we cannot see the end. We act and believe that God will take care of us even though we can't see what he is up to or where he is taking us.

To have faith means to have a personal relationship with God. Faith is private. It cannot be described. It is unique to each person as each person is different.

How do you grow in your Faith?

- PRAYING** Pray regularly (converse with God). When you spend time in prayer asking God, what you need your faith will grow. Luke 11:9 / Matthew 7:7 says **“Ask, and you will receive; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door shall be opened to you”**.
- ACTION** It is not enough only to pray. We also need to take the required action.
- KNOW** You have to know that God’s timing is perfect even though we get impatient and not like it. God provides when the time is right.
- BELIEVE** That God always has our best interest at heart. We often hear of sickness, loss of job, etc. In such time we move more closer to God.
- SHARING** Share your faith with others (Evangelize). Faith is not faith unless it is expressed. When you exhibit faith in little as well as big things your faith grows. When you see faith in action you can’t help but want more action. Others can’t help but notice and you bring others closer to God. Give God glory and praise through speech, behavior, and songs (worship).



NIGHTLY EXAMINATION
This is important and it helps prepare you for your next confession. It is healthy to examine your faults and failings and to ask God’s help to overcome them.

MORNING OFFERING
By praying a morning offering, you dedicate the rest of the day to God, which then prepares you to tackle anything that comes at you during the day.

4 DAILY HABITS TO KEEP YOUR FAITH ALIVE

15 minutes of MENTAL PRAYER
It consists of a “heart-to-heart” with God and leaving time for talking and listening. God is extremely interested in what is going on in your life.

15 minutes of SPIRITUAL READING
One way to do this is to read the Gospel reading for today and then find a spiritual book that will help you grow in your relationship with God.

What Is Faith?

Faith is one of the central parts of our relationship with God. Faith in God is tested daily—by terrible news stories, by personal troubles, by the human failings of family and friends—and yet the more we live by our faith, the better we are able to make our way in the world by trusting in God and his ultimate plan for the human race.

Matt. 17:20

Components of Faith in God	What This Means for Us
1. Belief in the existence of God and his unseen kingdom <i>Heb. 11</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ HOPE—We can look forward to a world beyond this one where we will live in peace with God forever ■ ACTION—If we truly believe there is more to life than what can be seen, our faith will drive our values and actions to align with our belief
2. Belief that the world and everything in it is part of God’s plan and under his control <i>Matt. 17:20; John 1:3</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ MEANING TO LIFE—We know that everything that happens to us is for a purpose and is part of a greater plan ■ POWER—Even the smallest amount of faith can change our lives and help us through times of trouble
3. Belief in the Bible as the objective Word of God <i>Pss. 33:4; 119:105; Rom. 10:17; Col. 1:10; 1 Thess. 2:13</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ GUIDANCE—The Bible provides guidance for living every day by faith ■ APPROVAL—God is pleased when we grow in our faith and knowledge of him by reading the Bible

Bible: 1 Samuel Chapter 8

- When did Samuel make his sons leaders of Israel? What were their names?
Answer: - When he was old - Joel and Abijah.
- Where did Samuel’s sons serve?
Answer: - At Beersheba
- Who came to Samuel at Ramah?
Answer: - The elders of Israel.
- What did the elders say to Samuel?
Answer: - “You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king...
- What did Israel want even after Samuel told them how a king would reign over them?
Answer: - A king.
- Who did Israel want to be like?
Answer: - Like other nations.
- What did Israel want the king to do for them?
Answer: - Lead them and fight their battles for them.

To Do List For Child:

Activity: My God and Myself (Pages 9 -11)

Read: 1 Samuel Chapter 8

To Do List For Parents: Please ensure your child learns the below prayers during the week:
Act of Faith & Act of Hope

Greater Than

Cross out every fourth letter to answer the question, *Is anything or anyone greater than God?*



Follow the Ark

Use your Bible and the clues below to trace the path of the ark on the map.

1. The elders of Israel decided to get the ark of God from this city. (1 Samuel 4:3)
2. The Israelites took the ark to their camp. (1 Samuel 4:1)
3. The Philistines captured the ark of God and took it to the city where the temple of Dagon was. (1 Samuel 5:1-2)
4. The Philistines decided to move the ark to another city. (1 Samuel 5:8)
5. When the people got sick, they sent the ark to another city. (1 Samuel 5:10)
6. The Philistines wanted to return the ark. They sent it up the road to this city. (1 Samuel 6:11-12)
7. Messengers told the people of this city to come get the ark. (1 Samuel 6:21)

