

MISSION MADNESS MARCH 27-29



A LESSON PLAN FOR YOUTH GROUPS
CBFVA • MISSION MADNESS 2020





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Introduction

This year, CBFVA's theme is "Faithful Voices." As this year's Mission Madness rolls around, we remember the 10 years of "madness" and how we have been called to be faithful to the voice of God that calls us to join in what God is doing in the world. This study is provided to you in hopes that this lesson helps link mission and discipleship. As an organization, CBFVA believes that we are all formed by being on mission together. Our hope is that this study provides participants of Mission Madness a Biblical foundation from which to see their work differently. As you go through this lesson, consider ways that your faith is formed by the work you do for others.

Goal for the Session

In this session, participants will be introduced to the Biblical characters mentioned in Hebrews 11 and 12 and encouraged to consider the importance of understanding the role previous generations of "faithful voices" have played in laying the foundation of faith from which we now build upon.

Preparing the Session

Supplies Needed:

- Instagram posters
- Markers
- Prepared butcher paper
- Copies of **Exploring the Bible Worksheet** for each person.
- Extra pens or pencils
- Sticky Notes (one pad per group)
- **Footprint Templates** (one per person- possibly cut from page)
- Notecards and envelopes

Preparation:

1. Photocopy the **Exploring the Bible Worksheet**, making sure you have enough for the students who will be there and the options you have chosen.
2. Prepare your room in a way that invites the whole group to gather together as well as gives room for smaller groups to meet.
3. Create and post “Instagram Profiles” and post them around the room. These may be as simple as the names on poster board or mock Instagram profiles printed onto poster-sized paper.
4. Prepare a very large piece of butcher paper. Write **Hebrews 11:1** from the Common English Bible at the top of the paper in large letters. Write your own name somewhere on the paper. Write at least one name of someone who influenced your faith journey somewhere on the paper and draw a line from your name to that person’s name. Either post the paper on a large open wall where all your students can work on the paper at the same time or prepare to lay the paper on the floor in your meeting space at the appropriate time.

Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don’t see. —Hebrew 11:1 (CEB)

5. Print copies of the **Footprint Template** sheet. Each person will need one copy. You may wish to also cut out the footprints prior to the lesson. If not, it is perfectly appropriate to hand each person one copy. They will then complete the assignment and then place the whole page on the floor instead of each footprint alone.
6. Assemble notecards and envelopes for students to pick up on the way out.
7. Using the handouts, familiarize yourself with the stories of the Biblical characters that are being considered in the study. You may wish to make notes to assist you with any questions your students may have for you.
8. Pray that God will allow space for fruitful conversations and for the openness of your students to consider the stories of these “faithful voices” that they may be encouraged in their own faith journeys.

ARRIVING

Supplies Needed:

- Prepared Instagram Profiles
- Markers

As the students arrive (some arriving early) provide them with markers and posters of the “Instagram Profiles” of the Biblical characters you will be discussing in the lesson. Provide space for them to write profile information, draw profile pictures, and to draw different posts from the characters’ stories.

Be sure to have a list of scripture references for students to reference, if needed. You may also wish to consider using this activity to see how much your students know without providing references to them.

GATHERING (5 minutes)

Once everyone has arrived and it is time to begin, gather the students in your meeting place. Explain that this session will be a special study to prepare them for this year’s CBFVA Mission Madness. CBFVA’s theme for this year is ***Faithful Voices***. As we participate in Mission Madness we will not only be serving others, but we will be considering how the faith and lives of others have inspired us to live out our faith today.

Explain the Arriving Activity so students who may not have time to participate will understand what happened with the profiles before they arrived. Quickly review the profiles before moving on to the opening activity.

Open the session in prayer.

OPENING (15 minutes)

Supplies Needed:

- Prepared butcher paper (posted on a large open wall or on the floor)
- Markers

Call attention to the prepared piece of butcher paper on the wall or place the paper on the floor and ask students to gather around it.

Explain how you wrote your name on the paper and connected it to the name of someone who influenced your faith. You may wish to even share a brief story of how they influenced you.

Invite students to work together to complete a “web of faith” following your lead. Everyone should write their own name on the paper. People can call out the name of someone that has influenced them and write it on the paper. Names should be called out before they are written to be sure that someone has not already written the name someone on the web. Once someone has written a name and connected it to their own name others may also draw a line to connect it to their name if that person has also influenced them. Remind students that is ok if they write someone’s name on the paper that no one else knows or was influenced by (their own grandmother in a faraway state).

Facilitate this activity so that it becomes a group discussion of people who have influenced them.

After students have had time to complete the activity, ask everyone to step back and look at their “web of faith.”

ASK: *What do you think about as you look at our creation? (We are influenced by some of the same people; “X” has really influenced a lot of us; I never thought about how many people have influenced me)*

Ask a student to read **Hebrews 11:1** as it is written on the paper.

Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don’t see. —Hebrew 11:1 (CEB)

Invite students to share what they think this passage may mean.

Explain the context of the verse.

- Previously in chapter 10 the readers were reminded *...we aren’t the sort of people who timidly draw back and end up being destroyed. We’re the sort of people who have faith...*
- The definition given here is meant to tie this command to the examples given later on.
- After this verse, the writer will explain how the actions of various biblical figures proved both the existence and validity of their faith. Those contexts—former evidence and future expectation—are essential when interpreting the meaning of these words.

EXPLORING (15 minutes)

Supplies Needed:

- Copies of **Exploring the Bible Worksheet** for each person.
- Extra pens or pencils
- Sticky Notes (one pad per group)

Ask everyone to get into a line (or circle) based on the distance people live from where you are meeting starting with the closest to your left and the furthest on your right.

Go around and divide everyone into small groups of at least three. Ask groups to assemble together throughout your space.

While groups are gathering, distribute the **Exploring the Bible Worksheets**, pads of sticky notes, and extra writing utensils.

Assign a character to each group. If needed, you may assign a character to more than one group. If you don't have enough groups to cover all the characters you may either not cover all of them or, if time permits, ask small groups to study more than one.

Small groups should circle the character they are assigned and read the passages assigned to that character. They should then answer the questions on the worksheet for their character and then update that character's Instagram profile by either writing on the profile or creating "posts" from their life using sticky notes.

After ten minutes, ask groups to take turns sharing with other groups what they discovered about their character. Be sure each group shares how their character sets an example for us today.

Characters

Abel	Genesis 4:1-7; Hebrews 11:4, 13-16
Enoch	Genesis 5:23-24; Hebrews 11:5-6, 13-16
Noah	Genesis 6; Hebrews 11:7, 13-16
Abraham	Genesis 12-22; Hebrews 11:8-10, 12-16
Issac	Hebrews 11: 13-16, 20
Jacob	Hebrews 11:13-16, 21
Sarah	Genesis 18 and 21; Hebrews 11:11, 13-16
Joseph	Genesis 50; Hebrews 11:11, 13-16
Moses	Exodus; Hebrews 11:13-16, 23-24
Rahab	Joshua 2, Hebrews 11:13-16, 31

Discussion Questions

Who were you assigned to study?

Which passages did you review?

What happened in the passages you read about your assigned character?

What does Hebrews 12 say about your character?

What type of example might your character set for you?

RESPONDING (10 minutes)

Supplies Needed:

- Bibles

SAY: *There is a reason the writer of Hebrews was reminding the readers of their ancestors in faith. It wasn't just a history lesson. The writer wanted the readers to respond and grow in their faith. Turn in your Bibles with me to Hebrews 12:1 and follow along as I read.*

READ Hebrews 12:1-2a.

So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter.

ASK:

- *How is the writer encouraging the readers to respond to this portion of Hebrews? What is the writer's intended response for them? (Keep strong in their faith; Live a simpler faith; Take their focus off distractions; Focus their faith on Jesus)*
- *How can we respond to what the writer wrote here in Hebrews? (Identify ways to keep growing in our faith; Ask for help in not being distracted in my faith; Talk to someone about my faith in Jesus)*

You may wish to write their responses to the last question on a piece of butcher paper or on a whiteboard.

CLOSING (5 minutes)

Supplies Needed:

- Copies of the **Footprint Template**
- Markers
- Masking tape
- Notecards
- Pens or pencils

SAY: *As we leave today and prepare to participate in Mission Madness, I want us to keep thinking about what we have learned from others, the examples others have set for us, and how we can grow in our faith.*

To help us to this, I would like each of each to take a set of footprints.

Distribute the **Footprints Template** either whole or cut apart.

Ask students to write one of the names they wrote on the Web of Faith onto the left footprint. Also write the name of the Biblical character they studied on that same footprint.

After they are done with that, ask them to think of the examples both the Biblical character and the person they know have set for them. On the right foot, ask them to write or draw at least one way they follow those examples and grow in their faith.

Give students time to complete the activity. You may wish to play some background music as they participate.

When everyone is done, ask each student to take masking tape and tape their footprints to the floor. In doing this, they should create a pathway of footprints from your meeting space through the door outside your room.

Invite students to gather around the path of footprints. Remind them that they are doing this to not only remember the examples that have been set for them, but also as a commitment to taking action to grow in their faith in the next week. You may wish to allow your students to share what they wrote and what they will do. If you do this, you should make it optional, as some students may not wish to share.

After everyone has shared (that wants to share), close in prayer.

Before students depart, distribute notecards and ask students to consider writing a thank you note to someone that they listed on the Web of Faith. Send it to the person, asking them to pray for you as you attend Mission Madness this year.

Exploring the Bible Worksheet

Assemble into your small groups and use this worksheet to discuss your assigned character and passage.

Characters

Please circle the character and passages assigned to your group.

Abel	Genesis 4:1-7;	Hebrews 11:4, 13-16
Enoch	Genesis 5:23-24;	Hebrews 11:5-6, 13-16
Noah	Genesis 6;	Hebrews 11:7, 13-16
Abraham	Genesis 12-22;	Hebrews 11:8-10, 12-16
Issac	Hebrews 11: 13-16, 20	
Jacob	Hebrews 11:13-16, 21	
Sarah	Genesis 18 and 21;	Hebrews 11:11, 13-16
Joseph	Genesis 50;	Hebrews 11:11, 13-16
Moses	Exodus;	Hebrews 11:13-16, 23-24
Rahab	Joshua 2,	Hebrews 11:13-16, 31

Discussion Questions

After reading and talking about the character you were assigned, discuss the following questions in your small group. Be ready to share your answers with the other groups after you are done.

Who were you assigned to study?

Which passages did you review?

What happened in the passages you read about your assigned character?

What does Hebrews 11 say about your character?

What type of example might your character set for you?

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