

Activity Pages

WINTER 2023–2024
FAITH THAT
PLEASES GOD

These Activity Pages Are Designed To:

- Engage students in a way that lecture and open-ended discussion don't.
- Gain insight on what has been learned and what hasn't.
- Encourage students to learn from one another and build vital relationships, in keeping with Proverbs 27:17 and Galatians 6:2.

Tips For Using Activity Pages:

- Instructions are on each lesson's "Involvement Learning" page (for teachers) and Activity Page (for students).
- Use these pages as optional alternatives for "Involvement Learning" activities.
- Limit individual work time and focus on facilitating discussion among learners.
- Encourage students to complete take-home work by discussing their results in the next class session.

Maximize Group Activity Time!

- Instead of viewing group activities as empty time for you as the teacher, look for opportunities to encourage and challenge your students.
- Pray silently during the activity for the participants' spiritual growth! Pray for them by name, calling on the Lord to bless each person.
- Circulate among the groups of learners and observe their interactions to discover your learners' level of spiritual maturity.
- Pray that the Spirit will fall on your classroom, equipping your students with knowledge and filling them with passion to boldly proclaim the good news.

The Faith of Ruth

Lesson 1, Ruth 1:6-18, 22, NIV

How Do You Shop?

Pretend you are new to the country and need an explanation of how to go grocery shopping. Ask your partner clarifying questions. After asking five questions, switch roles with your partner. Here are some prompts to get you started:

1. How do you get to the store?
2. Is it safe to leave your car unattended in the parking lot?
3. How do the doors to the store work?
4. Do you have to pay to rent a shopping cart?
5. How many groceries are you allowed to buy? Are there ration limits?
6. Can you taste the food to see if you like it before you buy it?
7. Does the store sell exotic meat? Where can I find it?
8. Can I barter over the prices or trade for them with my home-grown vegetables?
9. What are the ways to pay for groceries? How do I get money if I don't have any?
10. How could I use a computer and shop online?

How can a different cultural context make something routine (like shopping for groceries) difficult?

What Would You Give Up?

Comedians of previous generations often told “mother-in-law” jokes that have left us with the impression that relationships with in-laws are always challenging. But Ruth was willing to change her whole life for her mother-in-law. What would you give up for yours (or, if you are unmarried, for an elderly friend not related to you by blood)? Circle each item below that you would be willing to sacrifice to take care of another person:

Some of your free time

Your parents and extended family

Some of your money

Your country

Living in a separate household

Your religion

The opportunity to get married

Other: _____

The opportunity to have children

The Faith of David

Lesson 2, 1 Samuel 17:31-37, 45, 48-50, NIV

Lions, Tigers, and Bears?

Answer the following questions and discuss your answers with a partner.

1. What animal are you most afraid of? _____

2. What close encounters have you had with a dangerous animal? _____

3. What strategy would you use if you had to fight a ferocious animal with your bare hands?

David and Goliath Acrostic

Using the letters of the names “David” and “Goliath,” create acrostics that describe these two men. Provide verses that back up your answers.

D		G	
A		O	
V		L	
I		I	
D		A	
		T	
		H	

How would you sum up David’s character versus Goliath’s character?

The Family of Faith

Lesson 3, Matthew 1:1-17, NIV

Surprising Ancestors

Everyone likes to claim they are related to someone famous! Which of the following claims are true, and which are false? Circle your answers and jot down any thoughts for the question at the end. Then discuss your conclusions with the whole group.

- T / F 1. Robert Pattison, who played a vampire in the *Twilight* movie series, is descended from Vlad the Impaler, the real-life inspiration of Dracula.
- T / F 2. Meghan Markle, Duchess of Sussex, is descended from King Edward III of England and related to several US presidents, including Coolidge, Nixon, and both Bushes.
- T / F 3. Brad Pitt is related to former US president Barack Obama.
- T / F 4. Tom Hanks is a third cousin four times removed of Abraham Lincoln.

What would it mean to you to be related to a famous person?

Genealogy Puzzle

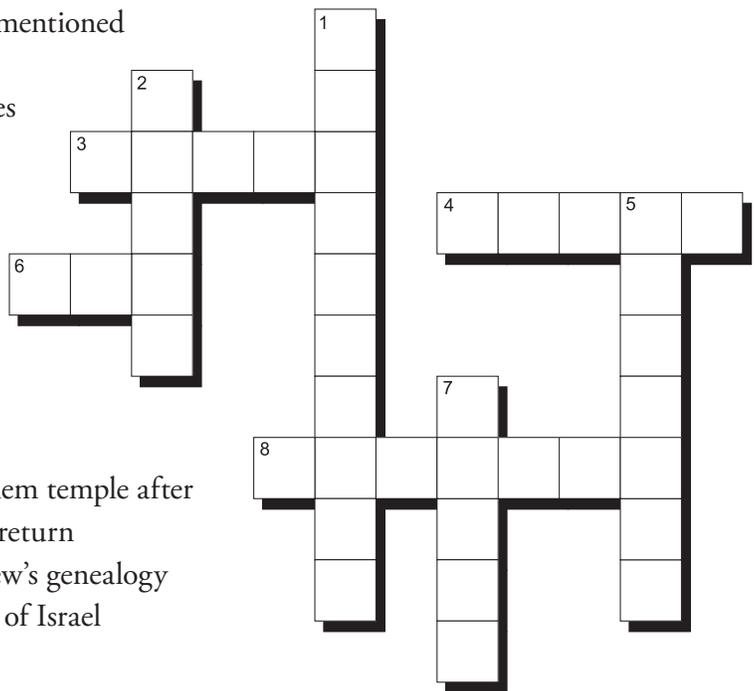
Using the names from Matthew's genealogy, complete the following crossword puzzle.

ACROSS

3. Judah's daughter-in-law and the first woman mentioned in Matthew's genealogy
4. He initially offered his older sons as candidates for kingship
6. This son of Abia was a righteous king of the southern kingdom of Judah
8. Family member who was promised that "all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:3)

DOWN

1. He was instrumental in rebuilding the Jerusalem temple after King Cyrus allowed some people of Judah to return
2. The second Gentile woman named in Matthew's genealogy
5. He was the last king of the unified monarchy of Israel
7. Jesus' adoptive paternal grandfather



Expectant Mothers' Faith

Lesson 4, Luke 1:36-45, 56, NIV

Baby Talk Translator

Vocal specialists say that babies under three months old make five basic sounds. Translate these sounds, and you might know how to meet the needs of a baby. Try matching the sounds to their definitions before talking through the question at the end with a partner.

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|---------------------|--|
| 1. Neh | a. Burp me! |
| 2. Eh | b. I'm sleepy. |
| 3. Eairh or eargggh | c. I'm hungry. |
| 4. Heh | d. I'm gassy. |
| 5. Owh or oah | e. I'm uncomfortable (hot, cold, wet). |

How do these five sounds help build a relationship between a baby and his or her parents?

Write Your Own Song

Read Mary's song of praise (Luke 1:46-55), then contextualize her song with your own song of praise.

I rejoice in God my Savior, because _____.

Future generations will say I was blessed because _____.

I'm thankful God is merciful because _____.

I'm thankful God is just because _____.

I'm thankful God blesses and cares for the needs of people who _____.

I'm thankful God remembered his promise to _____.

I am the Lord's servant. May God's promises be fulfilled.

The Faith of the Wise Men

Lesson 5, Matthew 2:1-12, NIV

Baby Gifts

Take one minute to rank these baby gifts from best to worst (1-best, 15-worst). A poll of your class will be taken after you rank the gifts. Be prepared to explain why you think your top three choices are the best baby gifts.

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| _____ blanket | _____ clothes | _____ new car |
| _____ books | _____ college savings fund | _____ ointment/oils |
| _____ bottles | _____ crib | _____ pacifier/soothing toys |
| _____ candy | _____ diapers | _____ perfume |
| _____ car seat | _____ gold | _____ stuffed animals |

Faith in Action

1. In the star at the bottom of the page, write down an area of ministry in which you believe God is leading you to serve.
2. Pray for the Lord to show you what steps you can take to become more involved in this ministry. If needed, seek the counsel of trusted friends and leaders.
3. Write down four of these steps in the numbered boxes below. Begin to put your faith into action by taking the first step!



1.
2.
3.
4.

Faith and Righteousness

Lesson 6, Hebrews 11:1-4a, 7a, 8, 17-18, 20-23, 32, 39-40, NIV

What Is Unseen

Do not show this paper to your partner until you have completed the activity. Help your partner draw a picture of one of the following items without telling your partner the object's identity. For example, to start an illustration of an ice cream cone, say to your partner, "Draw a triangle with two equal sides, pointing down."



Compare your partner's illustration with the image you were describing. Discuss what was difficult about this exercise.

The Hall of Faith

In the first column, fill in the name of someone commended for his or her faith in Hebrews 11. In the second column, write down the action word/phrase that was a response to faith mentioned in the verse(s). In the third column, consider the "unknown factor" that required the person to have faith (this may or may not be explicitly written in these verses). The first row is completed as an example.

PERSON OF FAITH	ACT OF FAITH	UNKNOWN FACTOR
v. 3 we	understand that God created all	no human witnessed it
v. 4		
v. 7		
v. 8		
vv. 17-18		
v. 20		
v. 21		
v. 22		
v. 23		

Faith and Trust

Lesson 7, Proverbs 3:1-8, NIV

Words of Wisdom

Match the common proverb in the left column with its interpretation in the right column. Compare your answers with a partner.

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|--|---|
| 1. Don't count your chickens before they're hatched. | A. If you aren't diligent in practicing, you lose your ability to do. |
| 2. Cost goes before the profit. | B. Words are a powerful "weapon." |
| 3. The pen is mightier than the sword. | C. Make plans based on what you have, not what you hope to have. |
| 4. People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones. | D. People tend to be less inhibited when authority figures are not present. |
| 5. He who rests grows rusty. | E. Investment comes before benefit. |
| 6. Draw not your bow till your arrow is fixed. | F. People shouldn't criticize others for similar faults of their own. |
| 7. Many hands make light work. | G. Don't begin a task until you are prepared to see it through. |
| 8. When the cat is away, the mice will play. | H. Asking for help makes a task easier to accomplish. |

World's Way vs. God's Way

In a small group, study each pair of verses from Proverbs 3 and complete the chart at the appropriate time in the lesson. Compare how the world says one can achieve those things in life to how God wants people to gain these things.

Verses	Scripture's Promise	The world's way to fulfill that promise	God's way to achieve that promise
vv. 1-2			
vv. 3-4			
vv. 5-6			
vv. 7-8			

Faith and Encouragement

Lesson 8, 2 Chronicles 20:13-20, NIV

Asaph's Psalm

The psalmist Asaph composed this song of reassurance when other nations were threatening Israel. As you read, underline any personally meaningful word or phrase. Put a star by any word or phrase that you think would have been particularly meaningful to Jehoshaphat based on the text in 2 Chronicles 20:13-20.

Psalm 75

For the director of music. To the tune of "Do Not Destroy." A psalm of Asaph. A song.

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|--|--|
| <p>¹ We praise you, God,
we praise you, for your Name is near;
people tell of your wonderful deeds.</p> <p>² You say, "I choose the appointed time;
it is I who judge with equity.</p> <p>³ When the earth and all its people quake,
it is I who hold its pillars firm.</p> <p>⁴ To the arrogant I say, 'Boast no more,'
and to the wicked, 'Do not lift up your horns.</p> <p>⁵ Do not lift your horns against heaven;
do not speak so defiantly.' "</p> | <p>⁶ No one from the east or the west
or from the desert can exalt themselves.</p> <p>⁷ It is God who judges:
He brings one down, he exalts another.</p> <p>⁸ In the hand of the Lord is a cup
full of foaming wine mixed with spices;
he pours it out, and all the wicked of the earth
drink it down to its very dregs.</p> <p>⁹ As for me, I will declare this forever;
I will sing praise to the God of Jacob,</p> <p>¹⁰ who says, "I will cut off the horns of all the wicked,
but the horns of the righteous will be lifted up."</p> |
|--|--|

Your Song

Using the underlined words or phrases from the previous activity, write a short song or poem of praise for God's deliverance from a threat that you are facing now or have faced in the past.

Common Goal

Race the other groups to finish the task. Identify each person in your group as Person 1, Person 2, and Person 3. Persons 2 and 3 must guide Person 1 to draw a geometric shape imagined by Person 2. How to accomplish this task according to the rules below is up to the team. Happy drawing!

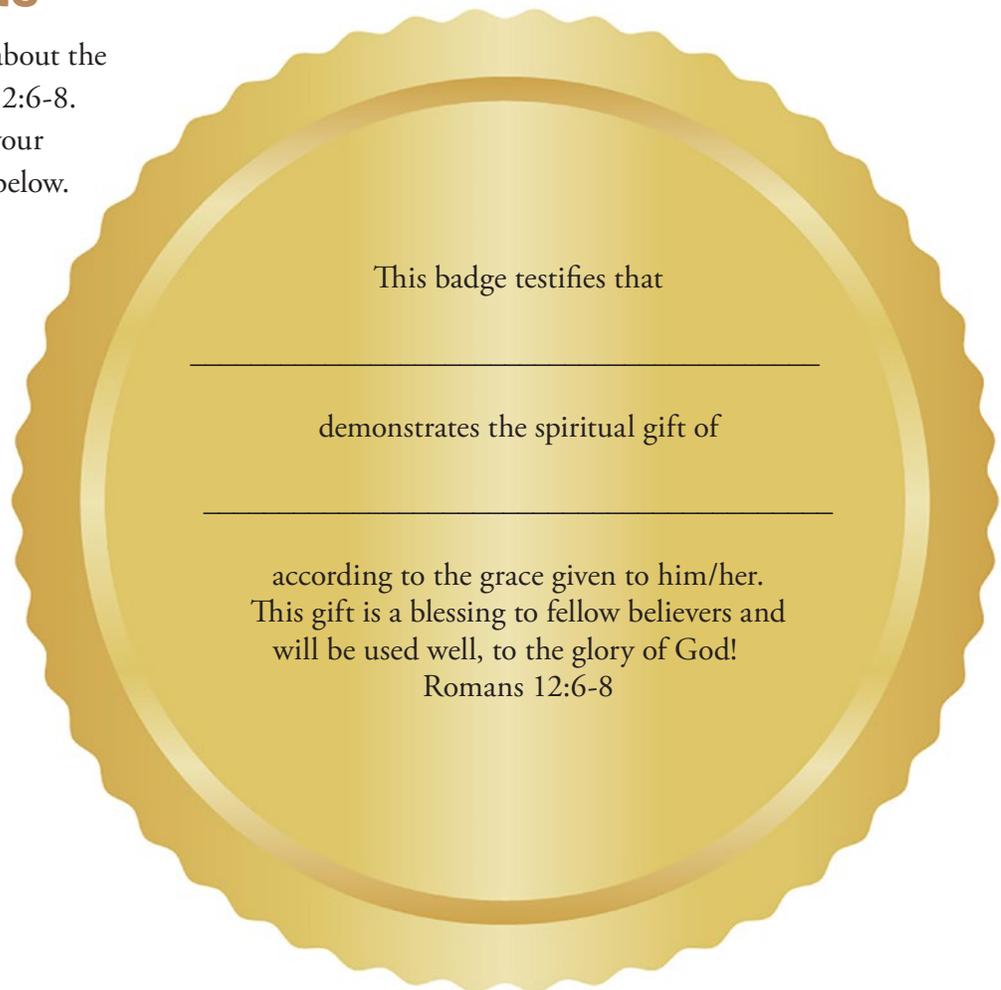
Person 1: Must keep his or her eyes closed.

Person 2: Must not speak.

Person 3: Must remain still—no movement!

Badge of Gifts

Talk with your partner about the spiritual gifts in Romans 12:6-8. Which gift do you see in your partner? Fill in the badge below.



Faith in the Power of God

Lesson 10, Isaiah 40:12-13, 25-31, NIV

The Warning and the Comfort

Read Isaiah 39:1-8 and summarize Isaiah's announcement below.

How does this prophecy explain the significance to Isaiah's people of the promises in chapter 40?

Paraphrase the comfort Isaiah offered in 40:1-11.

How do the promises here add significance to the encouragement found in today's printed text (Isaiah 40:12-13, 25-31)?

This Is My Father's World

Use this space as a simple journal to praise God for his creation. Write down any observations and reactions for each day of the week as you walk through your neighborhood, drive to work, or pay attention to nature in some other way. Take time to thank and praise God, as Creator, for what you observed each day.

Day	What I Saw	Thanks and Praise
Sunday		
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		

Faith in the Fiery Furnace

Lesson 11, Daniel 3:19-28, NIV

Keys to Context

Work with a partner to fill in the chart to explain the importance of each name or concept in Daniel 3:19-28. Use the book of Daniel, other biblical books, Bible concordances, and other resources to help you complete this task. Cite Scripture as available.

Babylonian exile	
King Nebuchadnezzar	
Babylonian government	
Daniel	
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego	
The most high God	

Advice for Those Facing Trials

Read James 1:2-8 and discuss the following questions with a partner.

How does James say we should respond to trials? _____

In what ways did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego model what it meant to follow James's instruction?

What benefit can come to us because of trials? _____

How have you seen the promises of these verses come true in your life or the life of someone close to you?

Faith in Times of Trouble

Lesson 12, Daniel 6:10-11, 14, 16, 19-23, 26-27, NIV

My Daily Habits

Think about some of your daily habits. Complete the table and answer the questions below.

Daily Habit	Times per Day	Duration	Other Notes

What do your daily habits reveal about your priorities? _____

What is a habit you could make or break to better align with your faith commitments?

Daniel's Example and New Testament Teaching

Read each of the following passages. Take notes to summarize what each passage says, including how it highlights what we can learn from Daniel.

Matthew 5:13-16 _____

1 Peter 2:13-21 _____

1 Peter 3:13-17 _____

What key takeaway can you apply to your life this week?

Faith in God's Purpose

Lesson 13, Habakkuk 2:1-5, NIV

Praying, but Still Suffering

With your partner, write a message of hope in response to each statement. How might Psalms 27:13-14, 37:6-7; Lamentations 3:22-27; Isaiah 40:28-31, 64; and Habakkuk 2:1-5 inform your responses?

My son has never expressed faith in Christ, and I'm afraid he never will. I pray for him daily, but I'm getting weary with my prayers after so many years.

My wife is suffering from a chronic, debilitating illness. So many dreams for our future have been dashed. It seems inevitable that many difficult days are ahead of us.

It was too soon for my best friend to die. His family depended on him so much. I just can't see much hope for their future.

For years, I have struggled in this job. Now I have a new boss who seems more intent on making himself look good than ensuring his staff thrives. I feel discouraged when going to work.

Personal Prayer from One Who Waits

As you consider ways that you're waiting on God, complete the following prompts to compose a prayer to God.

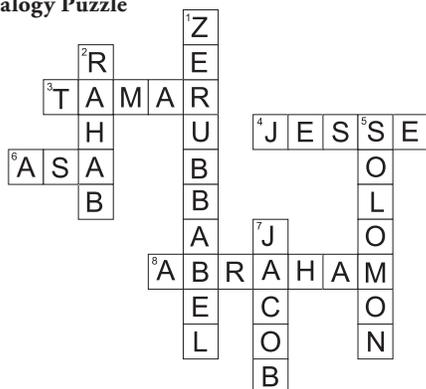
Lord, here's what I'm waiting for:

Help me to hold onto this promise from Scripture as I wait:

Lesson 3

Surprising Ancestors: All are true.

Genealogy Puzzle



Lesson 4

Babytalk Translator: 1. C; 2. A; 3. D; 4. E; 5. B

Lesson 6

The Hall of Faith: Verse 4: Cain, sacrificed, God's response; Verse 7: Noah, built ark, flood; Verse 8: Abraham, went, where he was going; Verses 17-18: Abraham, offered Isaac, how God's promise would be fulfilled; Verse 20: Isaac, blessed sons, their future; Verse 21: Jacob, blessed Joseph's sons, their future; Verse 22: Joseph, gave burial instructions, when/how exodus would happen; Verse 23: Moses' parents, hid Moses, his destiny

Lesson 7

Words of Wisdom: 1. C; 2. E; 3. B; 4. F; 5. A; 6. G; 7. H; 8. D.

World's Way vs. God's Way:

Verses	Scripture's Promise	The world's way to fulfill that promise.	God's way to fulfill that promise
vv. 1-2	<i>prolonged life, peace, prosperity</i>	<i>Answers will vary</i>	<i>Don't forget God's law, keep God's commandments.</i>
vv. 3-4	<i>favor and a good name</i>	<i>Answers will vary</i>	<i>Let not mercy and truth forsake you.</i>
vv. 5-6	<i>clear and straight path</i>	<i>Answers will vary</i>	<i>Trust and acknowledge God.</i>
vv. 7-8	<i>physical health and nourishment</i>	<i>Answers will vary</i>	<i>Be humble, fear God and depart from evil.</i>