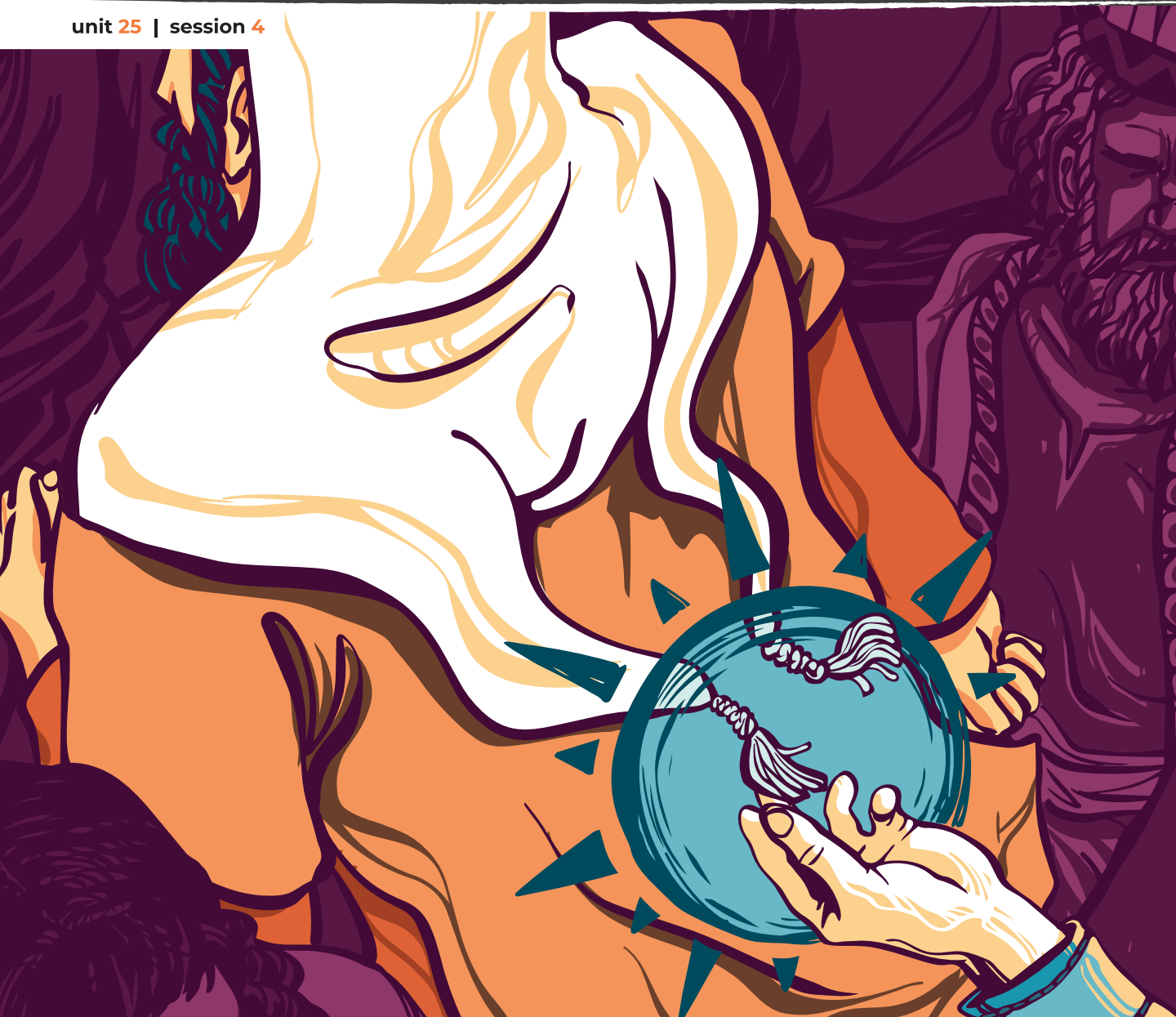


YOUR FAITH HAS *SAVED YOU*

unit 25 | session 4



CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus responded to those who came to Him in faith for physical healing. In a greater way, Jesus forgives and restores all who come to Him in faith for salvation from sin.

DESPERATE FAITH

This week, we're covering the passages and main points below. But we encourage you to dig in and read all of the content on this timeline.

Luke 8

WE CAN TAKE OUR DESPERATION TO JESUS

LUKE 8:40-45

40 When Jesus returned, the crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. 41 Just then, a man named Jairus came. He was a leader of the synagogue. He fell down at Jesus's feet and pleaded with him to come to his house, 42 because he had an only daughter about twelve years old, and she was dying. While he was going, the crowds were nearly crushing him. 43 A woman suffering from bleeding for twelve years, who had spent all she had on doctors and yet could not be healed by any, 44 approached from behind and touched the end of his robe. Instantly her bleeding stopped. 45 "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the crowds are hemming you in and pressing against you."

OUR FAITH SAVES US

LUKE 8:46-56

46 "Someone did touch me," said Jesus. "I know that power has gone out from me." 47 When the woman saw that she was discovered, she came trembling and fell down before him. In the presence of all the people, she declared the reason she had touched him and how she was instantly healed. 48 "Daughter," he said to her, "your faith has saved you. Go in peace." 49 While he was still speaking, someone came from the synagogue leader's house and said, "Your daughter is dead. Don't bother the teacher anymore." 50 When Jesus heard it, he answered him, "Don't be afraid. Only believe, and she will be saved." 51 After he came to the house, he let no one enter with him except Peter, John, James, and the child's father and mother. 52 Everyone was crying and mourning for her. But he said, "Stop crying, because she is not dead but asleep." 53 They laughed at him, because they knew she was dead. 54 So he took her by the hand and called out, "Child, get up!" 55 Her spirit returned, and she got up at once. Then he gave orders that she be given something to eat. 56 Her parents were astounded, but he instructed them to tell no one what had happened.

MAIN POINT.

Jesus doesn't turn us away when we go to Him in faith.



THEOLOGY CONNECTION

FAITH

Biblical faith is the resting, or trusting, in Jesus alone for salvation (John 3:16-21). More than being simply a mental agreement of historical facts, genuine faith begins with a recognition and confession of the truth of the gospel (1 John 4:13-16), followed by a receiving of Jesus as Lord and Savior of one's life (John 1:10-13). Biblical faith is not blind faith, for it rests on the historical life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

DISCUSSION

WE CAN TAKE OUR DESPERATION TO JESUS

LUKE 8:40-45



- What does it mean to be desperate? Where do you turn when you feel desperate for help?
- Why did Jesus stop to ask who touched His robe?
- What does Jesus stopping for both a shunned woman and a Jewish leader help us understand about Him?

OUR FAITH SAVES US

LUKE 8:46-56



- Jesus said the woman was saved by her faith. What does it mean to have this type of faith?
- What do you think helped Jairus have faith, even after the news of his daughter's death? How do you continue to have faith in difficult times?
- When is it hard for you to tell God what's really bothering you or what you're scared of? Why do you think that is?



HOW CAN YOU PRACTICE RELYING ON JESUS IN BOTH BIG AND SMALL MOMENTS? HOW COULD THIS HELP SOMEONE ELSE'S FAITH TO GROW?

CULTURAL CONNECTION

Have you ever prayed for something and been disappointed that God didn't answer the way you hoped He would? Jesus has all power and authority to heal every sickness, but as you probably know, He doesn't always heal people physically. You may wonder why the Lord didn't heal someone you begged for Him to heal, someone you loved deeply. You've seen Him heal others, so you may feel hurt—like He didn't hear your prayers or He simply didn't care. God loves us more than we could ever imagine, and He is going to do what is best for His glory and our good (Rom. 8:28). In fact, Jesus willingly experienced suffering and death to free us from both forever. In the moment, Jesus's death couldn't have looked like glory; it couldn't have looked like what was best for His followers. But what God does is always best for His kingdom and for His people. We'll experience disappointment, grief, and pain, but we can trust the Lord is faithful even then. Because of Jesus, believers have hope that is greater than the disappointment, grief, and pain we experience now. God hears you; He sees you; He cares for you.



DAY ONE

HEBREWS 11:1-2



We live in a “prove it” kind of world. People don’t often believe without evidence, unless you can show it or demonstrate it. You claim you can do a backflip, but your friends need you to prove it. The problem with this mindset is that it stands in contrast to how things work in God’s kingdom.

The Bible tells us that faith is evidence of something that is not yet seen (v. 1). Think about that for a moment. Our faith is the evidence of a reality that cannot be seen right now, a reality that is very real and alive within us. As Christians, we live with hope, or a confident expectation, of an eternal reward, as well as God’s present help right here and right now. Neither of these can be seen with our physical eyes, yet our faith is the evidence of their reality. All the heroes we read about in the Bible had this kind of faith. It was by this faith that God approved of them and by this faith that they made an impact on the world (v. 2). These men and women had a confident expectation of something to come and something unseen, but something real and alive within them.

This is how God wants us to live right here and now. Like the heroes of faith, God calls us to live not based on what we can see but based on what we know is real and alive within us—our faith and our hope in Jesus.

- **WHAT ARE EXAMPLES OF THINGS YOU BELIEVE IN BUT CAN’T SEE? HOW IS THIS LIKE YOUR FAITH IN JESUS?**
- **WHY IS IT SO HARD FOR US TO TRUST SOMETHING IF WE CAN’T SEE IT WITH OUR OWN EYES? HOW CAN GOD HELP YOU GROW YOUR FAITH EVEN WHEN YOU DON’T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS?**

PRAY

GOD, I DECIDE TODAY TO LIVE BASED ON WHAT I KNOW TO BE TRUE, NOT ON WHAT I CAN SEE WITH MY EYES. HELP ME REST IN YOU AND WHAT I KNOW TO BE TRUE.



DAY TWO

HEBREWS 11:6

Have you ever really wanted to make someone happy? Maybe you wanted a friend or family member to have the best day possible on their birthday. Or maybe you wanted someone to be proud of you. Think about a coach, teacher, or parent that you wanted to see your effort and think you were doing a good job.

Did you know that this should be our heart toward God? As Christians, our highest aim should be to honor God, to please Him, and to live in a way that brings Him joy. The Bible tells us exactly how we do this! Through faith. Not through striving or checking boxes or putting on a good face. Faith! Without faith, we can't please God. Faith isn't optional but essential in pleasing the Lord. Why? Because faith believes that God exists, that He is who He says He is, and that His promises are true. Faith trusts that God really does reward those who seek after Him. When we believe God and respond by seeking Him in obedience, our lives honor Him.

When the way we live reflects that we believe God is real and we choose to follow Him, God is pleased, overjoyed, proud. And He promises to reward this kind of faith-filled life! So, in the same way that we desire to bring our friends and loved ones joy, we should live with that same intentionality toward God. Live by faith. Trust Him. Seek Him. Walk with confidence that He is who He says He is and that He will do everything He has promised to do.

- **BASED ON HEBREWS 11:6, HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE WHAT FAITH IS AND HOW TO WALK IN IT?**
- **WHAT ARE PRACTICAL WAYS THAT YOU CAN DEMONSTRATE FAITH IN GOD AND LIVE A LIFE THAT PLEASES HIM?**

PRAY

**GOD, I WANT TO MAKE YOU PROUD. I WANT MY LIFE
TO GIVE YOU JOY. HELP ME TO LIVE A LIFE THAT
IS ROOTED IN FAITH AND IN YOUR PROMISE TO
REWARD THOSE WHO SEEK AFTER YOU.**



DAY THREE

GALATIANS 3:19-29

Have you ever failed at something you tried really hard to do? You gave it your best effort, yet you still couldn't accomplish it. No matter how talented or dedicated we are, we all fail at times. We have all fallen short of what we hoped to accomplish.

This goes for sin too. No matter how much we've tried to live according to God's commands, we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). So, what is sin? Sin is simply missing the mark God has for us, like aiming at a target and failing to hit it. God has set a perfect standard, and even in our best efforts and on our best days, we miss the mark. No matter how hard we try, we can't reach God's standard because He is perfectly holy. This is why we need a Savior, someone to lift the burden of God's law off our shoulders by living it perfectly, someone to free us from the consequences of our sin by paying our penalty.

God's perfect law reveals what is required for eternal life and a right relationship with God. The law is good; it points us to God and reveals His nature to us (v. 24). But because of our inability to keep God's law perfectly, it also exposes our sinful nature and shows us that we are imprisoned by our sin and its consequences (v. 23)—that is, until Jesus came and did for us what we could never do for ourselves. He lived the life we cannot live. He became the perfect sacrifice for sin, died the death we deserved, and through His resurrection, freed us from the power of sin. Now, through faith in Christ, we are sons and daughters of God and are declared righteous before Him! What an exchange! As sons and daughters who have been fully and freely forgiven, we can now live in personal relationship with God, both today and forevermore.

- **WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH US ABOUT WHO GOD REALLY IS, WHAT HE EXPECTS FROM US, AND WHY IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO BE PERFECT ON OUR OWN?**
- **WHY IS JESUS'S LIFE, DEATH, AND RESURRECTION GOOD NEWS?**

PRAY

**JESUS, THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINISHED WORK
ON THE CROSS. THANK YOU FOR LOVING ME, FOR
TAKING MY PLACE, AND FOR BRINGING ME INTO A
RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.**



DAY FOUR

JAMES 2:1-9

Comparison may be more damaging to us socially than anything else. Many people live their whole lives comparing themselves to others: how they look, how they dress, their achievements, their abilities, and even their morality. We compare ourselves to others to see how we measure up and how others measure up to us.

Comparison is such a normal part of our culture that even followers of Jesus are often trapped in it. But Jesus doesn't want us to live this way. Why? Comparison can cause us to show favoritism to one person and mistreat another person. When we live in comparison and people don't measure up to the standard we have decided they must meet, we treat them differently than those who do meet our standard.

One way we can guard our lives from comparison and favoritism is by remembering that we are all sinners in the same position of need before God. God chose the least and the lowly to be heirs of His kingdom (v. 5). When we remember our common ground at the foot of the cross, that we are all in need of a Savior and saved by grace and grace alone, comparison and favoritism have no room in our hearts. Instead of looking at everyone else to see how we compare, we should live with our eyes fixed on Jesus, recognizing our constant need for Him. When we stop measuring ourselves and others by human standards and instead measure everything by the grace of God, comparison loses its power. Grace levels the ground, frees our hearts, and teaches us to love people, not for how they measure up but for who they are—people created in God's image and deeply loved by Him.

- **IN WHAT WAYS DO YOU TRY TO “MEASURE UP” TO THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU? WHO ARE THE PEOPLE YOU’RE TEMPTED TO TREAT LIKE THEY’RE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVERYONE ELSE?**
- **WHAT ARE WAYS YOU CAN YOU GUARD YOUR HEART AGAINST COMPARISON AND FAVORITISM?**

PRAY

GOD, I REPENT FOR THE TIMES
I HAVE SHOWN FAVORITISM TO
SOMEONE OVER ANOTHER. HELP
ME REMEMBER THAT WE ARE
SAVED BY GRACE AND NOT BY
OUR OWN GOOD WORKS.





DAY FIVE

JAMES 2:14-26

Imagine this: You are sitting in a restaurant enjoying your food when suddenly someone starts shouting. As you look up and begin to listen, you hear these words: “Anyone who comes to the front and gets in line gets a million dollars!” Now let’s imagine that you really needed some money. In fact, you were thinking about it before all the commotion. If you believed that person, you would get up, get in line, and excitedly wait for your fortune.

Okay, so that probably will never happen. However, it is a great illustration of how faith and works go hand in hand. We are not saved by our good works because our efforts and abilities will always fall short. We are saved by placing our faith in Jesus and in His finished work on the cross (Eph. 2:8-9). However, our faith should be evident in our actions. In the imagined scenario of getting a million dollars just for standing in line, your faith in the person’s promise is proven by your action of getting in line. In the same way, our faith in Jesus is exhibited by our obedience to Him. When we say that we believe Jesus is Lord, what proves our faith is following Him as Lord. When we claim Jesus is the Lord of our lives yet continue to live as if we are the rulers of our lives, then we exhibit what the Bible calls “dead” faith (v. 17). In other words, our claim is empty; our faith isn’t revealed in our lives. Not only are we called to live out our faith, we have every good reason to do so. God is good; His Son died for our sin. Why would we live any other way? Why would we settle for lives that only pledge faith in our words and not our actions? Let’s demonstrate our faith through daily obedience to Jesus. When we do, people won’t need explanations or arguments. Our lives will be the evidence—faith in action (v. 18).

- **HOW DO ACTIONS REFLECT BELIEF?**
- **WHERE IN YOUR LIFE ARE YOU ACTING ONE WAY, EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW GOD WANTS YOU TO ACT ANOTHER WAY?**

PRAY

**GOD, HELP ME TO SEE ANY AREAS OF MY LIFE
WHERE WHAT I SAY I BELIEVE DOESN'T LINE UP
WITH HOW I LIVE. HELP MY FAITH IN YOU GROW,
AND AS IT DOES, LET MY LIFE REVEAL IT.**