**Topic: Faith**

**Bible Passage: Hebrews 11:1**

**Activity: Action News Report**

Have preteens divide into small groups. Give each group the name and information on a mythological creature, such as unicorns, Godzilla, werewolves, Bigfoot, mermaid, leprechaun, etc. For more ideas, go here -

<http://www.mythicalcreaturesguide.com/page/List+of+Mythical+Creatures>

Explain to each group that they will be creating a news report that must include every member of their group. They can be reporters, eyewitnesses, cameramen, etc. Their story should be about several eyewitnesses describing a “sighting” of the mythological creature. Encourage them to be humorous with their news reports. When groups have finished, allow a few groups to share their news report with other groups.

**After the activity, say:** Have any of you ever seen one of these creatures? When you can’t see something, you have a really hard time believing that it really exists or that it really happened. We all want evidence or proof to help us believe.

Open your Bibles to the book of Hebrews, chapter 11. The writer of Hebrews opens this chapter with a great definition of faith, so let’s read that together. Hebrews 11:1-3 says,

“ 1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for. 3 By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.”

Faith is believing without seeing. This is essential for the Christian life. You cannot see God. You were not present when Jesus was crucified or resurrected. And you were not in the room with the writers who wrote down God’s words that formed the Bible. So, how can you believe in all of these things that you did not see or experience? This is *faith*.

But our faith is not completely blind. Although we cannot directly see or experience these things, God chose to gives us testimonies and evidence that believe that they really happened. Here’s what I mean…

The Bible is composed of 66 books by over 40 authors over a span of 1500 years! In all that time and with all those different authors, there is not one line in the Bible that contradicts another. Only God could do something that amazing.

Following Jesus’ resurrection, He spend a span of 40 days on earth and more than 500 people saw him alive. On one occasion, Thomas put his finger in the nail holes of Jesus and felt the scars of the crucifixion. If Jesus wasn’t dead and resurrected, how could any of this have happened?

God is not visible. In fact, the Bible tells us that we cannot see Him because His glory would be too magnificent for our eyes. Even though we can’t see Him, we can see all that he created and the order with which he created it. Did you know that the earth is 93 million miles from the Sun? This is the perfect distance. If we were a few degrees closer, we would burn up. If we were a few degrees further, the planet would freeze. Did you know that the stars rotate in the sky with such precision that if you set your clocks by them, the time would only be off 3 seconds every 1,000 years! I wish I had a clock that accurate. All of this is the testimony of creation that there is a creator. The creator is God.

Even though we cannot see or experience any of these things on our own, we can have faith that they are all true because God has given us evidence to rely on. Faith is not easy, and doubts will be common. But by His Word and by the teaching of His Word, we can all increase our faith. We can live by faith, and not by sight.

**As a small group, discuss the lesson with the following questions:**

What do the following verse teach us about *faith:*

Romans 10:14-17

Hebrews 11:1

Hebrews 11:6

2 Corinthians 5:7

Proverbs 3:5

Hebrews 11:13-16

Read Hebrews 11:5-8; 29-30

How did the following people practice *faith?*

Enoch

Noah

Abraham

Israelites in the Exodus

Israelites in the Battle of Jericho

What can we do to strengthen our faith?

What is the hardest part about having faith? When do you struggle the most?

What are some promises of God that He has already fulfilled?

How can the fulfillment of those promises help you to have faith in all His promises?

Read James 2:14-19. According to this verse, how does faith begin?

What are we to do with faith after hearing the Word?