

# **Yesterday. Today. Forever.**

**Module: Loving The Story**

**Lesson 3: BELIEVE**

## **Objectives**

- Students will learn that while knowledge and belief are each an integral part of our faith journey, God calls us to use them together to achieve his purposes for us.

## **Materials Needed**

- ☐ Gymnasium mat or some other soft landing
- ☐ 1 chair or table, ideally between 1½ and 2½ feet off the ground
- ☐ 1 spoon
- ☐ optional: LCD projector, sound system and laptop with YouTube video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wP7Fv93Y8U> starting at clip 2:37)
- ☐ 1 copy of Appendix 1 per 3-5 students

## **Minds On**

Set up a chair and a gymnasium mat at the front of your meeting room. Have the students select one adult volunteer. Convey to the group that the volunteer needs to be brave...bold...fearless...and incredibly trusting. Have the volunteer stand on a table or chair, about 1 and a half to 2 feet off the ground, and then invite the rest of the group to stand in front of him or her in two lines with their arms out and firmly locked in front of them. Ask the volunteer if he or she trusts the group enough to catch him or her. If the answer is, “yes”, then instruct the leader to fall back into the groups’ outstretched arms.

The group will catch the volunteer with the utmost care, and then gently lay him or her on the ground. Applaud the student for his or her bravery...and then ask for other volunteers.

## **Action**

**Prompt:** It takes courage to leap off a ledge like this into the arms of people you’re not too sure you can trust. It takes courage to try something you’ve never done before...like skydiving, rock climbing, hang gliding. Even activities that aren’t so physically intense take courage...something like performing on stage for the first time, or starting a new job. And just like those things, it takes courage to stand up for what you believe in. For the past few weeks, we have been learning about seeking knowledge and wisdom, we’ve learned the difference between the two, and how wisdom possesses knowledge. (You may want to ask if they remember the spoon analogy from the previous week.)

Knowledge is knowing what the spoon is for...understanding its purpose. Wisdom is knowing how and when to use the spoon. But how does knowledge and wisdom apply to our own lives, our own faith journey? What good is knowledge and wisdom...if you don’t believe in it?

Divide students into groups of 5-7. Each group is to prepare a drama based on Daniel 3 (they can choose to modernize the drama if they’d like).

Leader's note: Instead of having students present a drama, you could also show the YouTube video.

**Ask:** Have you ever believed in something so much, that you were willing to lay down your life for it? (Allow students a moment to answer that question internally.)

**Prompt:** Our faith is something that can't be taken light-heartedly. It takes an incredible amount of conviction...and this conviction is backed by the knowledge and wisdom that we obtain as we continually grow stronger in our faith. And with this conviction...comes courage. Courage to stand up and say, "Yes...I believe in God." (If applicable, share a story about a time when you showed conviction and courage for something you believe(d) in, ideally about your own faith. Compare it to the conviction of the three men in Daniel 3. You may also ask one or two students share a similar short story.)

Have a student read Matthew 5:11-12. Hold up the spoon once again.

**Prompt:** We know what the spoon is for...we know what it's capable of...and we know how to use it. But if we can't be sure of its purpose, if we can't believe that it's capable of doing what it's meant to do, then there's no point in having it. Without the spoon, things get so much more messy...without faith, our journey will get so much more complicated and messy...kind of like if I tried eating a sundae with my bare hands.

## **Consolidate/Debrief**

Have students form groups of 3-5 and provide them with Appendix 1. Each group will provide a summary of their discussion to the larger group.

When the groups have had enough time to work through the questions, call them back together. Invite them to share anything that came up in their discussions that would be helpful for the rest of the group to hear. Following this, conclude in prayer.

## Appendix 1

1. What is the scariest thing you've ever done? (i.e. first time on a roller-coaster, zip-lining, etc.)
2. Give an example of a time when you had to stand up for something you believed in. What challenges did you face? Were you successful?
3. Oppositely, was there a time when you were unable to stand up for something you believed? What happened? Did your beliefs change on this occasion?
4. Re-cap Daniel 3. Does the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego inspire you to remain convicted in your faith? Can you relate to them in any way?