

Momentum/Friction

Module: S.E.L.F. Assess.ment

Lesson 4: Faithfulness – Is Seeing, Believing?

Objectives:

- Students will explore how to trust God in different aspects of their lives and in different ways
- Students will learn that seeing isn't believing, but believing is seeing

Materials Needed:

- ☐ Object for game to designate the “it” pair
- ☐ One copy of handout “Story and Questions”
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Chart paper / whiteboard, markers (optional)

Minds On

Once all students have arrived, have students pair up. Have an area marked off, where the game will be played, with just enough room for all the students plus some moving room. (The best way to do this is to have everyone sit in a circle with chairs, nice and close. Then when they get up out of their chairs, the inside of the circle is the boundaries, nice and small!) Have partners stand one behind the other, facing the same direction. The person in the front is known as the “car”, and the person standing behind is the “driver”. Cars are to have their eyes closed for the game. One pair of students is to be designated with a roll of tape (or something to signify that they are the “it” car), as the other pairs of students are trying to avoid this particular pair. Remind students that they are trying to avoid each other, and should not purposely run into someone. The only one trying to bump into others is the pair with the roll of tape. Depending on your group, you can have a group sit out if they purposely run into someone. The pair that is “it” should not ram or run into anyone, they are just touching the pair with their object, and that team they touch is now “it”. Also make sure that pairs know not to run, this is a walking game, with the person at the back (the driver) steering the person at the front (the car – who has their eyes closed). Play the game for about 5 minutes. If the students are getting tired of playing, have pairs switch up positions so they get to experience both positions.

Once the game is done, have each pair group up with another pair, to make a group of 4. Ask the students to discuss the following questions: How did you feel when you had your eyes closed and didn’t know where you were going? What was it like being directed by someone that you may or may not have known, while not knowing if you were going to hit another pair? (It might be helpful if you prepared the questions on a white board or chart paper so they could readily read the questions and discuss it in their groups.)

Action

After the students have given their answers, remind them of the different roles that were used within the game. Tell them to think back to when they were the “driver” of the car; that is the role that God plays in your life, guiding your path as he can see what is coming up. Ask students to think to when they were the “car” with their eyes closed; that is the role that you play in your life when you trust Jesus to guide you, as you allow him to lead the way while having no say as to where that will be and trusting that God will guide you away from harm. Now ask students to think about the possibility of being hit by the “it” car; that is the role that Satan plays in our lives, as he purposely tries to interfere with the path we are headed on when Jesus is leading us.

The one difference between the game and real life is that Satan may try and take us over, attack us, or bombard us, but there is always a way out, and that is putting our focus on Christ, not bringing others down with us (as in the game where you go try to “hit” another car).

Have a student or leader read 2 Corinthians 4:18.

Either have students get into groups, or keep them as a whole group. Ask them to discuss the meaning of the following: “for what is seen is temporary”? and “what is unseen is eternal”? Give them enough time to think, reflect, and share with each other before bring them back together (if you are choosing to split up in groups) and discussing it together.

Make sure two main points are covered by the sharing:

- When we believe in Christ, we are given the gift of eternal life (John 3:16)
- Material things do not follow us to heaven, they are left on this world when we move into eternal life

Faith isn't always about seeing results. It is about having faith that God has his plan for our lives and letting him have control over that aspect. Yes, it's nice to see results and prayers

answers, but everything is a part of God's plan. If something bad happens to you, he will turn that bad situation into a blessing and use it for the good of his Kingdom.

Have a student or leader read James 1: 5-8.

The focus of this verse should be the first verse, you may want to repeat the first verse to talk about it and get the students to reconsider exactly what it means. You will want to ask questions such as: What does it mean to lack wisdom? What does James mean when he writes about wisdom here? The idea is to define wisdom with the students in the way that the Bible describes it. The following is a passage that will help you back up hopeful definitions you will receive from the students, and if you don't get the right answers, you can use these verses to help direct them in the right direction.

Wisdom comes from God. Try to lead the discussion of wisdom away from purely being intelligence, and that it incorporates a lot more than that. It incorporates having knowledge of what to do in certain situations, reacting in an appropriate way, and following through with appropriate actions. Dictionary.com defines wisdom as: "knowledge of what is true or right coupled with just judgment as to action".

Proverbs 3:5-6 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.

Once you have a favorable definition of wisdom, continue by saying something like: Just as these verses tells us, God is a generous God, and He will provide what we ask for if we believe it. However, God is not a magical genie and provide for you in that magical way. You have to trust in Him with all your heart, you have to acknowledge Him as the Savior and Lord over your life, and THEN He will see how what you are asking for will fit into the path He has you on.

Consolidate/Debrief

Ask students to share the craziest thing they have every done, ever heard of being done, or ever seen. Give examples of things that common daredevils would do, such as eating fire, swimming with alligators, jumping off a really big cliff, etc. Did people believe you when you told them you did that/saw that? What did you think when you heard of those crazy things?

Have a student or leader read the story from the handout “Story and Questions”. Follow up with questions also provided on the hand out.

After reading the story, continue by saying something like: Lucky for us as Christians, we do not have to know everything about our Lord Jesus Christ in order to trust him fully. Even though He has proven himself through many accounts before he sent his son to this world, while Jesus walked this earth, and continually today, you don’t have to see to become a believer. It’s once you become a believer that He will show you his wonderful grace, power, and love.

Have a student or leader read 1 Peter 1:8-9.

End the time together in prayer, asking that the students would believe in Jesus’ power and might and would therefore experience it as well. Thank Jesus that He is a faithful and wonderful Creator that we can trust in him to guide us, even though we don’t know where he’s taking us.

Handout: Lesson 4

Story and Questions

This story is about Jean Francois Gravelet (aka the Great Blondin) – it was found at:

<http://www.tourniagara.com/history/daredevils/jean-francois-gravelet/>

Jean Francois Gravelet, better known as the Great Blondin, was the first man to walk across the great gorge known as Niagara Falls, some 160 feet above the lower rapids.

On June 30, 1859, Blondin successfully crossed the falls on a three-inch manila rope stretching from the American side of the falls to the Canadian, a total span of 2000 feet. It took him 20 minutes to cross above the Niagara River on what would be the first of 8 crossings. Twenty five thousand onlookers would come to Niagara Falls to watch this amazing feat and Blondin did not disappoint. Always a showman halfway across the rope he calmly sat down, and then proceeded to lay down on his back and rest his pole across his chest before resuming his crossing. He then proceeded to walk the rest of the way to the Canadian shore, however he would perform a back somersault to the amazement and shock of the crowd, before finishing his amazing feat.

On a subsequent crossing Blondin pushed a wheelbarrow containing a small stove made of sheet iron across the gorge. To the delight of onlookers he then proceeded to light a fire and cook an omelette while suspended on the rope, he lowered the omelette down to passengers on the Maid of the Mist who ate it before Blondin continued his crossing. He even went across the gorge while tied up in a sack, his arms and legs shackled, with only his hands exposed. On one of his crossings he brought with him a chair, which he stood upright on. **However**, one of his most famous feats involved his manager Harry Colcord. During the summer of 1859 Blondin crossed the gorge several times, with Colcord on his back, an amazing feat considering Colcord weighed only 5 pounds lighter than the amazing Blondin.

Follow-up Questions/Comments:

Can you imagine the amount of faith his manager must have had in him to hop on his back and hold on for a wobbly 2000 feet? Is there anyone in your life that you would trust that much (if they happened to be a famous tight rope walker) to hop on his or her back?

Do you think a total stranger would be comfortable doing that? Would you?

Many of us wouldn't, even though the Great Blondin had proved himself at least 5 times before to be able to make it across, there is too much at risk if we were to fall off the tightrope.