



Faith Runs Deep Children's Resources

Key verse: **Ephesians 2:8-10**

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— **9** not by works, so that no one can boast. **10** For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to.

Songs: Colin Buchanan - The One and Only God

Working Overview		
Celebrating stories of faith in Australia to inspire us to live out our faith today.		
Episode	Big Idea	Main Story
Episode 01 – Faith Runs Deep (introduction)	It starts with Faith <i>Australian faith stories</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gospel message /Testimony from own church
Episode 03 – Second Chance (early years)	God of second chances <i>Faith stories of Colonial Australia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Reibey
Episode 04 – Eternity in our Hearts (First Nations culture and stories)	God has always been at work in Australia <i>Faith stories of First Nations People of Australia</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnabas Roberts
Episode 05 – Melting Pot (immigration)	God has been at work in the world <i>Faith stories in Immigration</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Hoang
Episode 06 – That Other Religion (sport)	God can work through the things we enjoy <i>Faith stories in Sport</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eloise Welling
Episode 07 – My Brother's Keeper (charity)	God of compassion <i>Faith stories in Charity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Flynn

Session 1 It starts with Faith	
Aim: Explore the concept of faith and to understand our faith stories flow from our response to the Gospel.	Resources/notes
<p>Welcome and Intro Activity:</p> <p>Have a map of Australia on display. (Either printed or via a projector). Hang up signs around the room for each of the 6 states in Australia: New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania.</p> <p>Have the children go and stand in a state that they have been to (if they have been to more than one ask them to choose their favourite memory or reason for being in the state). Ask the children what they did in the state they are standing in.</p> <p>Have some basic facts relating to each state. Get the children to stand in the state they think the fact is referring to.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) This state has the NRL team of the Broncos. (QLD) 2) This state has the famous Harbour Bridge (NSW) 3) This state is the smallest in Australia (TAS) 4) This state is the largest in Australia (WA) 5) Kangaroo Island is in this state (SA) 6) This state has Movie World and Sea World (QLD) 7) This state has the Blue Mountains (NSW) 8) The capital city of this state is Melbourne (VIC) 	Map of Australia, signs to hang for the 6 states.
<p>Prayer:</p> <p>Teacher to pray for the morning that God would open their hearts and minds to what He wants to show them today. That they would discover together about how faith in Jesus makes a difference in people's lives.</p>	
<p>Memory Verse Activity: Ephesians 2:8-10</p> <p>This is the verse that the children will be learning throughout the 6 week program. This week we will focus on verse 8 and build on that for the following weeks.</p> <p>“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God” Ephesians 2:8</p> <p>Print out the verse in 3 different colours in a large sized font. Cut the words</p>	Verse printed in different colours. (3 groups/3 colours)

<p>out and hide them around the room. Put the children into three groups and allocate each group a colour to find. Allow them to find all of the words for the verse and put it together. Give them a copy of the verse to refer to. The group that has put it together and read it out first will be the winners. Encourage each group to finish and read the verse aloud.</p> <p>Say: <i>For the next six weeks we will be thinking about faith in the history of Australia. This verse says "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God". God has given us the gift of salvation! This verse says it is through faith.</i></p> <p>Ask: <i>What is faith?</i> Take some suggestions from the children.</p> <p><i>Faith is trusting in God and what He says.</i></p> <p><i>The people that we will be hearing about over the next 6 weeks all had one thing in common. That is: their faith. They all trusted in God and lived their lives to show the faith they had.</i></p>	
<p>Lesson Content:</p> <p>Say: <i>Each week we are going to be learning about some people from Australia that have had faith in Jesus and lived it out to make a difference in our country and in other people's lives. Today though we have asked _____ from our church to come and share about their faith.</i></p> <p>Ask someone from your church to come and share their story of faith. You could prompt them with some of these questions...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) When and where was the first time you heard about Jesus? 2) How old were you when you decided to follow Jesus? 3) Where were you and who was with you when you made this decision? 4) How would you describe faith in Jesus? 5) Who was helpful to you in growing your faith in Jesus? 6) If you could give the children here some advice in staying close to Jesus, what would you say? 7) How has having faith in Jesus made a difference in your life? <p>See if the children have any questions they would like to ask about their faith or life. (You could give the 7 questions above out to children and get them to do the asking)</p> <p>God has been at work in our world from the very beginning of time. We see that in the story of creation and His work continues in our lives today.</p> <p>What is faith? Faith is trusting in who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Let's have a look at this now.</p>	

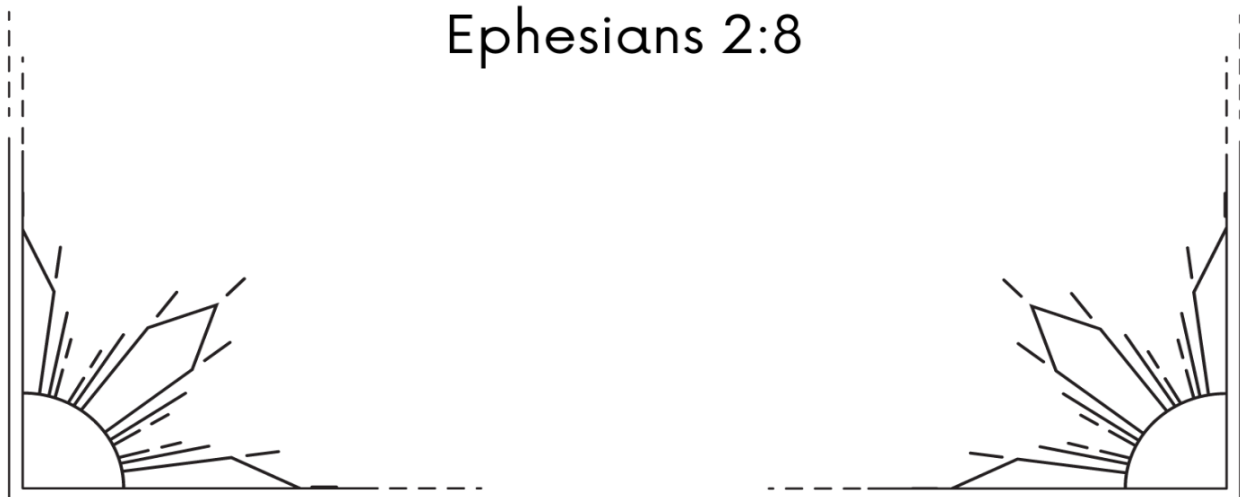
<p>Give a Gospel presentation, using the wordless book or the Gospel beads bracelet. There are a lot of examples online. This is a helpful resource.</p> <p>https://www.letthelittlechildrencome.com/child-evangelism-resources/wordless-book-share-the-gospel/</p> <p>Aim to ask the children questions as you go to engage them in the process. They could even make their own wordless book or bracelet.</p>	
<p>Follow Up Activities:</p> <p>DISCUSSION: Ask the children some similar questions that you asked the guest who came to talk to the children today. Have the children ask you some of the questions too so you can share some of your faith story. Be sensitive in the way you ask as some children may not have made a decision to follow Jesus yet. If this sparks some discussion and questions as to whether they would like to follow Jesus let their parents know so that you can involve them in the process of praying with their child.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) When and where was the first time you heard about Jesus? 2) How old were you when you decided to follow Jesus? 3) Where were you and who was with you when you made this decision? 4) How would you describe faith in Jesus? 5) Who was helpful to you in growing your faith in Jesus? 6) If you could give the children here some advice in staying close to Jesus what would you say? 7) How has having faith in Jesus made a difference in your life? <p>PRAYER: After hearing today that faith is something that is passed on and shared with others, think of someone in your life that you could pray for to know Jesus. Pray for them and write their name on a sticky note to add to the wall, encouraging others to pray also.</p> <p>RESPONSE: Give the children some time to consider their own faith. You could play a song and encourage them to think about what Jesus has done. Ask them to commit to one thing this week that might help them stay close to Jesus. (eg I am going to pray when I go to bed, I am going to ask my parent to read a bible story with me, I am going to go on a walk with my family to be in nature and see God's creation)</p> <p>CRAFT/ACTIVITY: Colouring page of the word Faith. (see resources)</p>	<p>Colouring page</p>



FAITH

"For it is by grace you have been saved,
through faith - and this is not from yourselves,
it is the gift of God"

Ephesians 2:8



Additional Resources

[WATCH FAITH RUNS DEEP EPISODES:](#)

- Here is the link to watch FAITH RUNS DEEP. Go to Olive Tree Media's On Demand Streaming Platform page to watch the episodes

<https://www.olivetreemedia.com.au/on-demand/>

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

- Games Changers World Shakers and Real-Life Superheroes children's book
<https://www.olivetreemedia.com.au/product/game-changers-world-shakers-and-real-life-superheroes/>



- Faith Runs Deep Anthology
<https://www.olivetreemedia.com.au/product/faith-runs-deep-anthology/>

