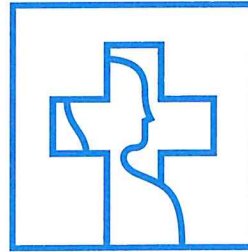


Question 30

What is faith in Jesus Christ?



Answer

Receiving and resting on him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel.

Big Idea

Faith in Jesus Christ is the belief that Jesus is the Messiah, the one promised by God and revealed in his Word. Faith results in a desire to trust, obey, and worship Jesus wholeheartedly.

Aim

To help the children to understand that faith in Jesus Christ means trusting him as Savior and Lord and living for him alone.

Bible Passage

Galatians 2:15–21

Memory Verse

“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Gal. 2:20)

Virtue
Trust





Notes

Leader's Notes

Many children may be intellectually able to assent to the truth of the gospel, but they might not have personally committed themselves to Jesus Christ. Their head knowledge may not have reached their hearts. They may say they believe the gospel, but trust themselves, or something else, more than Jesus. This question will encourage the children to embrace the gospel wholeheartedly and to place their faith and trust fully in Jesus. They will learn that believing without exercising faith is insufficient and will be challenged to consider what lives look like that are lived by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Things to remember when planning and teaching:

- Faith is a hard concept to communicate to children! Help them to understand that faith is a gift from God.
- Ensure that your children understand that justification comes through faith alone.
- The children may be familiar with the language of faith, but may not have discovered what a personal faith is yet.
- Remember to mix and match the activities in the lesson to fit your time frame (see p. 12 for some sample outlines). You won't have time to do them all. Feel free to adapt each activity based on your class's strengths and weaknesses.

Leader's Prayer

Saving God, thank you that I have heard and understood the truth about Jesus. Thank you that my faith is in him alone. Help me to continually rest in him. Grant understanding

to the children who will hear this lesson; may they know saving faith in Jesus. In his name. Amen.

Leader's Tool Kit

- Q30 Catechism Recap (DL)
- Paper
- Markers
- A small wrapped gift for each child in the class
- Video clips of people parachuting or bungee jumping
- Glue
- Scissors
- Magazines that can be cut up
- Memory verse or catechism question and answer in code, one for each child

**10** Catechism Recap

Have paper and markers ready, along with a bucket or wastepaper basket. Print and cut out the answers from Q30 Catechism Recap (DL) and place them in a bowl.

Divide the children into small groups. Give each group eight pieces of paper and a marker.

Explain to the children that in the bowl are the answers to eight catechism questions. The aim of the game is for them to quickly

write down the question that goes with the answer. Draw one of the eight answers from the bowl and read it aloud. Give the teams one minute to write down the question. Once the minute is up, read out the question. The teams that have correctly identified the question get to come forward to a certain point in the classroom, crumple up their piece of paper, and shoot for the basket. And so it begins again—until all answers have been drawn from the bowl. The team with the most scores in the basket wins the game.

5 Introduction to Question 30

Wrap individual gifts for each child in the class.

As the children settle down for the lesson, hand each child a gift. Tell them that they are free to open their gifts. Allow them a moment to open and enjoy the gifts they have received.

Introduce Question 30: “What is faith in Jesus Christ?” Explain to the children that today’s question will help them to understand what faith in Jesus is. Ask the children if they enjoyed receiving the little gifts, and ask them if they generally

enjoy receiving gifts for their birthday or Christmas. They will undoubtedly respond affirmatively! Highlight for the children that the gift of faith given by God surpasses all other gifts, and tell them that the significance of such a gift will be explored in the lesson.

Ask them if they did anything to earn the gift you gave them. Although they didn’t earn their gifts, they unwrapped them and willingly received them. The same is true of salvation by faith.

10 Activity 

Prepare some video clips of people parachuting or bungee jumping.

Show the children videos of people parachuting or bungee jumping. Ask the

children if they would ever want to jump out of a plane or off a cliff. Ask them what people are trusting in when they jump with a parachute or bungee cords. (Although their reflexive answer may be

Notes

“God,” the right answer is the parachute or bungee cord.)

Draw the children’s attention to the fact that these people trust either a parachute or a bungee cord to save their life, noting that if the parachute fails to open or the bungee cord snaps, the results could be messy!

Explain to the children that the people jumping need to have great faith that their equipment is reliable.

Highlight that trust is an essential part of faith, and faith in Jesus Christ means trusting him ultimately with our lives.

Teaching Outline

Begin the teaching time by asking for God’s help. Ask that the lesson would be taught faithfully and that the children might listen well.

Tell the children that sometimes people describe faith as a leap in the dark. This implies that faith is placing your trust in something you know nothing about. Explain that might be what the first ever parachuter did when he jumped out of an airplane with a piece of material strapped to his back. But that isn’t what parachuters are doing nowadays. They have faith in their parachute because they know how to use them. They’ve read the instructions. They know that they’re made by reputable companies, and they learn how to use them from experienced instructors. They trust that as they fall to the ground, one tug on a cord will release a parachute that will allow them to fall gently to the ground without being hurt in any way.

Explain to the children that faith is actually trust or confidence that is based on

knowledge coming from evidence. It’s not a leap in the dark.

Explain to the children that when we put our faith in Jesus Christ, we are placing our trust in him because of all the evidence in Scripture that testifies to him as the promised Savior. He is the one whom God said he would send to save his people from their sins. He is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies.

Tell the children that a Christian is not just a person who simply believes in his or her head that Jesus is the Savior, but someone who, from the heart, is ready to say, “Here, Jesus. Here is my whole life. I am not trusting anything else to save me.” Ask the children to think about jumping off a wall into a parent’s arms. They might believe that their parent is able and willing to catch them, but they don’t exercise that belief as trust until the moment they jump. It’s when we “jump” into the arms of Jesus, putting our whole trust in him, that we show faith.



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Read Galatians 2:15–21. Provide Bibles for the children to read along with you.

Tell the children that now you are going to look at part of Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia. At this point in the letter, Paul is explaining what it means to be justified by faith. That simply means to be put back in a right relationship with God through faith alone, not by ever doing anything else.

Explain to the children that Paul is clearly arguing that the only way to be saved is by trusting in Jesus Christ. At the time when Paul was writing, and indeed now, people thought that you must keep laws in order to be made right with God. They believed that they had the power to save themselves if they lived in a certain way. But they were deluded; no one except Jesus has been able to keep God's law perfectly. Paul says that the only way to be justified is by acknowledging that we need Jesus in order to be saved, that we can't do it by ourselves. It is putting our full trust confidently in Jesus.

Tell the children that God gives the gift of faith when we become Christians. Our old life dies, and we receive new life in Christ—new life lived through faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul speaks personally in these verses, declaring that Christ loved *him* and died for *him*, and as a result *he* lives by faith in Jesus. He no longer trusts in himself or lives his own way, but trusts Jesus and lives for him, striving to resist the sin that would have been so attractive in his old life.

This is what faith in Jesus Christ looks like!

Finish the teaching time by helping the children commit Question 30 and the answer to memory.

(These notes are just for guidance. Please expand or amend them to suit your own children and context. Write out your talk in your own words and include illustrations and applications that you know will connect with your children.)



Activity



Pass out magazines, scissors, glue, markers, and a piece of paper for each child.

Tell the children that they will be making a collage to help them remember what faith is. They should cut up the magazines so that they have the letters *F*, *A*, *I*, *T*, and *H*. Have them glue the letters on their collage and use markers to make an acrostic:

F	Forsaking
A	All
I	I
T	Trust
H	Him



Discussion and Question Time

Some questions that might arise include:

? Can I be sure I have the gift of faith?

Explain to them that once they've placed their trust in Jesus, they can be sure God has granted them faith.

? What if I realize I've been trusting in something besides Jesus?

Any time we realize we have put our trust in something else, we can confess it to God and know that he will forgive us. Faith in him involves believing he will forgive our sin. Seeing our sin (that we've trusted in something else) is the perfect opportunity to put your faith in Jesus, not your own goodness.

Also use this opportunity to help the children to think about their own lives and how this question and answer affects them personally.

- Do they fully and confidently rely on Jesus for salvation?
- Are they determined to live obedient lives for Christ as they hope and trust in him?
- What do they think the world thinks about having faith in Jesus? Are they going to be able to stand when people discredit the gospel?



Virtue Vision



Trust

Discuss with the children what trust means to them.

Ask them to think about two parachuters. Tell them that one is a confident jumper and has no fear at all. The other is jumping for the first time and is nervous. She is not sure that her parachute will work. She is afraid. Nevertheless, both people jump out of the plane.

The first jumper had a lot of faith, but the second didn't have very much faith. Ask the children which one they think made it safely to the ground. The answer is that they

both did! Even though the second jumper had only a little faith, she still exercises trust in the parachute by jumping out of the plane. Her safety was not dependent on the strength of her trust, but on the strength of her parachute.

Tell the children that if they ever get worried they are not trusting God enough or that they don't have enough faith, they can remember that their salvation is not dependent on the amount of faith they have, but on the strength and trustworthiness of Jesus to save them!



10 Memory Activity

Give each letter in the alphabet a number, and then write the memory verse or catechism question and answer out in a number code. The children will have to decipher the code in order to crack the memory verse. You could tell the children that A=1, B=2, etc.

Present the children with the coded memory verse or catechism question and answer

and ask them to figure out what it says by cracking the code.

Have them read the memory verse through several times after they've decoded it, then ask them to turn their papers over and say it out loud.

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5 Closing Prayer Time

Encourage the children to thank God for the gift of faith in Jesus. Pray that their trust would grow deeper in full knowledge that they are being lovingly held by a perfectly trustworthy Father.

