CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Living By Faith

Lesson 3: Imitate Faith People

About This Lesson

Young people tend to be heavily influenced by their peer group in terms of their attitudes and actions. As teens imitate what they see other teens do and say, they are rarely choosing to imitate godly attitudes and actions. This lesson highlights the importance of building your faith by imitating Jesus and those who demonstrate consistent faith.

Key Takeaway: Consistency is the key to success in every area of life. Consistently choosing to imitate Christ is the key to a successful faith journey.

Key Verse: 1 Corinthians 11:1 *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*

Teaching Outline:

I. WHO YOU IMITATE MATTERS

A. You don't have to be an expert! You can imitate someone who is—Jesus!

1. Jesus modeled faith for His disciples. In John 11, we read that Jesus' friend Lazarus died, but Jesus spoke about how this would lead people to believe that He was sent by God when He raised Lazarus from the dead.

2. Jesus taught about faith and how the size of your faith doesn't matter. Whatever size faith you have, use it!
Matthew 17:20 *So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."*

3. When you have Jesus Christ living in you, you can access His faith!

Galatians 2:20 *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* (KJV)

B. Imitate people of faith!
   1. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 11:1, *"Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."*

C. Imitate people who are consistent in their faith walks and show fruit of their relationship with God!
   Hebrews 13:7 *Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.*

D. There are lots of people who are imitated who shouldn't be!
   3 John 1:11 *Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.*

E. Choose to imitate people whom you see God working in and through.
   Hebrews 6:12 *That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*

II. CONSISTENCY IN FAITH MATTERS

A. Jesus is the perfect example of consistency. Jesus Christ is "the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).
   1. Jesus performed miracles while He was on earth, and He continues to perform miracles.
   2. Jesus demonstrated love and compassion while on earth, and He continues to show love and compassion.

B. Faith is consistent over a long period of time!
   1. Faith is a verb! It takes action, and it is incredibly consistent over a long period of time!
   2. Don't fall for the tricks of instant! Instant coffee is terrible!
   3. The best relationships don't happen instantly!
   4. Wealth doesn't happen instantly!

C. To be great at something, such as music/sports/writing/art/crocheting, be consistent!

D. To be great at your faith, be consistent and imitate Christ!

Bottom Line:
To be great at your faith, be consistent and imitate Christ!

Small Group Time:

1. We are to imitate people of faith who are consistently imitating Christ.
    - What does it mean to imitate someone?
    - Who have you imitated in sports, at school, at church, etc?
    - Who models consistent faith that you would like to imitate?

2. Hebrews 6:12 says, *"That you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."* People of faith have a lot of promises that they can inherit!
    - What does it mean to inherit something?
    - What are some promises that are available to us as believers?

3. Consistency isn't easy, especially when it comes to faith. But, it is worth the effort to maintain consistency in living by faith.
    - What is the biggest struggle you have with consistency as a student?
    - What is the biggest struggle you have with consistency in living by faith?

Declaration:
"I choose to imitate Christ each day. I choose to be consistent in daily living by faith."

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** Who from the Bible do you choose to imitate this week, and why?
- **Pray:** Ask for boldness to choose to imitate Christ this week, even when it makes you stand out from your peers.
- **Read:** Hebrews 11 is the "faith hall of fame" chapter. Notice all of the examples of consistent faith. Choose one and imitate their faith.

- **Live It:** Mentor someone who is new to the faith or younger than you. Share some of your choices to live by faith with them and encourage them to make similar choices.
- **Create:** After reading Hebrews 11, the faith chapter, write on a notecard your own verse about you and your faith, "By faith ___ (your name), …" Put the notecard in your Bible and share it with the youth group next week. Combine everyone's verse into a youth group faith chapter.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: What time period would you travel back to live in, and why?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Gather several snack and soda options, including a known name-brand and an off-brand or store-brand version. Conceal which is the "real" name brand and which is the "imitation" off-brand version. Lead a discussion about how good imitations are hard to distinguish from the original.

Opening Affirmation: "The Word of God is my guidebook to live my life by faith. I will walk by faith as I choose to follow God's plan for my life and watch God use me!"

Giving Time: Psalm 126:1–2 *When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.[2] Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them" (ESV).*

The Lord wants your faith to grow so when you give, He restores. Your faith can open the door for God to do great things for you so that others see and know that God is blessing you.

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: Paul challenges believers to imitate Christ. Ephesians 5:1–2 says, "Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. [2] And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-

smelling aroma." List the attributes of Christ that should be imitated, such as love, sacrifice, speaking truth in love, befriending the outcast and sinners, etc. Challenge the young people to imitate Christ in these ways and to give an update next week about what they experienced when they imitated Christ.

Biblical Worldview: Young people typically choose to imitate social media influencers, athletes, and entertainers. When young people choose to imitate Christ and faithful Christ followers, they will stand out from their peers. Encourage the youth to live their faith even when it makes them different from their peers.

Outreach/Missions: Many missionaries are the only Christians some people will ever meet. When the missionaries imitate Christ in how they live their lives, they are showing what their faith looks like on a daily basis. Pray for your church's missionaries as they imitate Christ, that many people may also choose to follow and imitate Christ.