CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Living By Faith

Lesson 4: God's Plan Requires Faith

About This Lesson

Often in today's world, young people are rewarded just for showing up. Awards are given to everyone, not just those who work hard. When it comes to God's plan for a person's life, it just doesn't automatically happen. God won't force someone to follow and fulfill His plan. Each person must partner with God and live by faith to find, follow, and fulfill God's plan. When we choose to partner with God, He will faithfully complete what He starts. This lesson will help the young people desire to live by faith and commit to continuing their faith journey throughout their lives.

Key Takeaway: The faith journey requires action to partner with God's plan and continue living by faith throughout your life—through good times and tough times!

Key Verse: Philippians 1:6 *Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

Teaching Outline:

I. GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE AND IT REQUIRES FAITH

A. God would not design a plan for your life that doesn't require faith!
   1. You are here for a purpose! You are here to make a difference! You are not an accident!

B. Living the abundant life that Jesus has promised you requires faith!
   1. Faith is a verb! It takes action—you must take action and partner with God!
   2. Desire to follow God's plan and make choices that line up with God's plan.

II. YOU NEED FAITH TO BEGIN, FAITH TO CONTINUE, AND FAITH TO COMPLETE WHAT GOD HAS PLANNED

Philippians 1:6 *Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

A. Jesus is with you from the beginning. He's not going to give up on you! He will be with you every step of the way!

B. Many people have faith to begin! Fewer people have the faith to continue, especially when things get tough. Faith is a lifelong journey!

C. Keep trusting God! Keep doing what He has called you to do! Don't give up! If you make it through the famine, you will make it to the feast!

D. Example from Isaac's life showing faith to begin and to continue:
Genesis 26:1–6 *There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.[2] Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. [3] Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father. [4] And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed; [5] because Abraham obeyed My voice and kept My charge, My commandments, My statutes, and My laws." [6] So Isaac dwelt in Gerar.*

1. Verse 1 – There was a famine in the land.

2. V. 3 – The Lord spoke, "dwell in this land," meaning to continue doing what I called you to do and stay where I called you to be.

3. V. 4 – The blessing of multiplication came to Isaac because his father, Abraham, obeyed God.

4. V. 6 – So Isaac dwelt, which means to continue.
   a) Do not move unless God tells you to move. It takes faith to follow God!

E. Example from Isaac's life showing faith to complete God's plan:

Genesis 26:12–14 *Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the LORD blessed him.* [13] *The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous;* [14] *for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.*

1. V. 12 – Isaac sowed in that land. He was planning on staying! That's why he kept sowing. Even during a famine. He kept sowing! This shows the power of continuing in what God tells you to do.
   a) If someone stops sowing, it's probably because they're planning on leaving.

   b) If you want to connect with someone who will invest, see potential in you, help you grow and mature, and produce fruit, you will need someone who is going to stick around.

   c) Give a personal example of sticking with someone or something, or use a relevant example of someone famous who stayed in a situation when it didn't look like it was wise, but then succeeded.

2. V. 13 – Isaac began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous. When you begin and continue, you become blessed because you are following God's plan for your life.

3. V. 14 – God increased Isaac's possessions of flocks, herds, and a great number of servants. He had possessions that could multiply, grow, and increase. He had assets, not liabilities.

4. V. 14 – The Philistines envied him. You know you've really done well when the world envies you and is mad at you for what you possess from God!

Bottom Line:
When you act on your faith by living it every day, you will find God is faithful and will

Small Group Time:

1. Many people want to begin and complete God's plan, but struggle to continue when they don't immediately see the desired results. We live in a microwave society that wants to insta-bake everything! You can't insta-bake faith. The best things in life take time to develop. (The best food, the greatest athletes, the greatest musicians, the best relationships)

- Who are some of your favorite athletes? Did they become great at their sport overnight? Or did it take them years to develop and improve?
- Who are some of your favorite musicians? Did they instantly learn how to play an instrument or sing? How much time do you think it takes to achieve success in this area?
- What are some of your closest relationships? How long have you known this person? How much time have you spent with them? Do you think it's a good idea to spend time with people you love and value?

2. Following God's plan for your life takes faith that He has a good plan for your life. Jeremiah 29:11 gives proof, *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."* Continuing God's plan for your life takes faith that grows through trials rather than quitting.

- Do you have faith that God has a good plan for your life? Why or why not?
- What will help you continue to follow God's plan when life is hard?

Declaration:
"God has a good plan for my life. I live by faith and will continue to follow God's plan."

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** What do you think is God's plan for your life this week?
- **Pray:** Ask God to confirm His good plan for your life.
- **Read:** Hebrews 13:20–21 each day this week. Write down what insight God gives you daily as you meditate on how He is equipping you to do His will.
- **Live It:** If you aren't sure what God's plan for your life is, you can begin by following some of the things that you know are His will, such as reading and

obeying His Word, loving others, pray, be joyful, share the Gospel, etc. Choose to do one of the things you know are His will each day this week and develop a habit of living by faith.

- **Create:** Write the words "God has good plans for me" in the center of a paper. This week, write all around the paper your thoughts about God's plan, what you see in your life that seems to be His good plan, and ways you are following God's plan. Put this in a place where you see it and remember to thank God for His good plan and faithfulness to complete it in your life as you choose to live by faith!

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: If you could have a zoo animal, which would you want, and why?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Sing or look online for the song by Red Rocks Worship, "Good Plans."

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: Philippians 4:19 *And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

When you have faith in God's provision and live that faith out, you will be a giver because you know that God will take care of your needs. Your faith acts every time you give!

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: Sometimes young people don't recognize some of the giftings God has given them to use to fulfill His plan for their lives. Spend time as a group praying in the Holy Spirit, and then, start going around the group speaking what giftings you've noticed or direction/plan God might have for each one. Encourage the young people

to go around and share words of affirmation with one another. Challenge them this week to watch for ways the words spoken over them are affirmed.
Biblical Worldview: Having a biblical worldview will help the young people weather life's storms because they will know that God is faithful to complete the work He has begun in their lives. Their faith will help them continue when life is hard. Unlike their peers who live without knowing God's promises or plan for their lives, the young people who live by faith will be guided by the Holy Spirit and God's Word to find, follow, and fulfill God's plan for their lives. As they live by faith, they can help their peers recognize the need to choose to follow Jesus as well.

Outreach/Missions: In the 1800s, many missionaries who went to foreign lands took a coffin with them on the ship voyage to the new land. They took the coffin because they were committed to staying and doing God's work, no matter how hard life became. They showed that they were going to live and die in the land God was sending them to do ministry. Their strong commitment and faith in God allowed the Gospel to spread through their choice to follow God's plan for their lives.