CHARIS YOUTH

Series: Winning in Life

Lesson 1: Faith

About This Lesson

This series helps the young people recognize that God wants them to win and has given them His playbook for winning in life. Today's lesson focuses on the first key to winning in life: faith.

Key Takeaway: Faith is a key to winning in life.

Key Verse: Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

Teaching Outline:

I. GOD WANTS YOU TO WIN AND HAS GIVEN US HIS PLAYBOOK

A. God's Word holds all the keys to winning. Be Wise and follow it.
Joshua 1:8–9 *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

John 10:10 *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

Romans 8:37 *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

II. KEY #1 FOR WINNING IN LIFE: FAITH

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

A. Every good relationship is based upon faith! Trusting in someone shows you have faith in them!
B. God wants us to trust Him and know Him for who He really is.
    1. We learn to know Him by studying His Word and the life of Jesus.

III. FAITH GIVES YOUR LIFE SUBSTANCE

Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*

A. Faith is for NOW! It is very present!
    1. Don't wait and think that later in life you can put your faith in God and live by faith.
    2. Faith now will save you heartache and problems later.

B. Faith is very substantial! It fills your life with hope. One of the worst things that can happen to a person is the loss of hope.
    1. Share a personal example of a time your faith brought hope to a situation that seemed hopeless.

IV. WE LIVE BY FAITH

A. FAITH is the substance that connects the natural realm and the spiritual realm!
    1. In the realm of the spirit, the only thing God sees is FAITH!
    2. God doesn't see age, gender, race, position, or wealth. He sees faith!

B. Faith is inherent. We were created to have faith.
    1. You can grow in your faith.
       Romans 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
    2. There is a direct correlation between faith and hearing the word of God!

C. When you are operating in faith, it will affect you in these important areas:
   1. Attitude
      2 Corinthians 4:13 *And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak.*
   2. Resilience
      Proverbs 24:16 *For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity.*
   3. Vision
      Proverbs 29:18 *Where there is no vision, the people perish, but happy is he who keeps the law.*

D. Give young people an opportunity to begin their faith journey by explaining salvation and praying with anyone who hasn't yet received it.

E. Lead the group in a response prayer: Dear Jesus, I put my trust in you. Every day, I come to you and surrender my life to you. Thank you for your Word, for teaching me, and guiding me. Because I chose to live for you, I will live by faith! Thank you for giving me an abundant life and making me a winner! In Jesus' name, amen.

Bottom Line:
Faith in Jesus leads me to win in life by shaping my attitude, resilience, and vision for the future.

Small Group Time:

1. God wants you to win in life, but that doesn't mean that you won't face difficulties. Every good coach has a good playbook. Invite students who play sports to share what they have seen and learned from their coach using a playbook.

- Are there different plays depending on what challenge you are facing as a team?
- What is our playbook as believers?
- What are some of your favorite plays/scriptures that have helped you at some point in your life?

2. When you live by faith, it affects your attitude. You can be a winner, or you can be a whiner, but you can't be both! Winners will gravitate towards a positive attitude. They will remain hopeful and also thankful!

- How is the attitude of a winner different than the attitude of a loser?
- What are some things that you are thankful for right now?

3. People of faith are incredibly resilient!

- What does it mean to be resilient? Is there anyone you know who you would describe as resilient?

4. When you listen to God and spend time in the Bible, you will receive vision!

- Why is it important to have vision in life?
- Is there a specific vision or dream that you believe God has placed in your heart?

Declaration:

"God wants me to win in life, so I choose to live by faith in Him."

Youth Weekly Journal:

Handout, Email, or Download

- **Question:** What does it look like for you to live by faith this week?
- **Pray:** Ask God to give you boldness and courage to live by faith this week, especially when things don't go the way you wanted or planned.
- **Read:** Hebrews 11 is known as the Faith Hall of Fame. Each day, read a section of the chapter: verses 1–7, 8–12, 13–16, 17–22, 23–29, and 30–39. Reflect on what God is showing you through the examples of people who lived by faith.
- **Live It:** Faith is substantial and gives hope. Speak words of faith over every situation that seems hopeless or share words of faith with someone in a challenging situation.
- **Create:** Think about what faith means to you and write a catchy phrase about faith. Put the phrase somewhere you will see it and speak it to remind you to live it!

EXTENDING THE LESSON

Icebreaker Question: If you could go anywhere in the world for your next vacation, where would you go, and why?

Opening Activity Suggestion: Have the young people share about things they have won through contests, sports, music, school, church, etc. Cheer for them and ask each person to describe how they felt and how the win motivated them.

Opening Affirmation: "God wants me to win in life and has given me His playbook. God's keys to winning in life are faith, love, humility, generosity, and diligence."

Giving Time: Matthew 2:11 *And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

The wisemen planned ahead and brought gifts fit for the King of Kings. They were purposeful in the gifts they gave: gold for a king, frankincense used by priests (Jesus is the High Priest), and myrrh used for preparing bodies for burial (recognizing that Jesus would sacrifice His life for the forgiveness of sin). Think throughout the week and pray about what to bring as an offering to God. What you give says a lot about you and your faith.

BEYOND – ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR CHURCH OR HOME

Challenge: Operating in faith affects your attitude, resilience, and vision for the future. Look for opportunities this week to practice using faith rather than fear or hopelessness, and watch how your faith affects your attitude, resilience, and vision. Prepare to share an example next week of how faith positively impacted your life.

Biblical Worldview: The world operates under the belief that winning in life comes through riches and fame. The Bible shows that faith in Jesus leads to a life of victory in this life and the life to come in heaven. As the young people choose to live their

faith now, they will reap the rewards now and eternally. Encourage the young people to share God's winning playbook with their friends and family.

Outreach/Missions: Many people groups around the world do not have a copy of God's Word in their own language. Although they may have access to God's Word in another language, they miss hearing God speak to them in their own language. Pray that translators can complete the task of translating the Bible into the remaining 3,000 languages in the world.