

- Recap
- What is Faith? Faith is...believing with actions
- Last week we learned that it only becomes faith when we are willing to act on that faith. This week we are going to look at how sometimes acting in faith means having the patience to know when not to act.
- **Game:** Put a Lego on the table in front of two people. If it is red they can grab it, any other color they have to let it go. If they flinch they will get a strike. First one to 3 points without 3 strikes wins.
- Tonight we are going to learn about how faith is much like this game. Faith means that you are willing to be patient and wait for something, but also that you are willing to act when the time is right.
- **Sing**
- Last week we said that faith is believing with actions. That is true, faith means that we act on what we believe. So if we have faith that God will take care of us we can act differently because we don't have to be afraid.
- In the same way sometimes the actions that we have to take with faith is to have the faith to wait and trust that God will come through for you.
- OK, tonight we are learning about Nehemiah. Everyone say Nehemiah.
- Let's **watch this video** to get us up to speed on who Nehemiah was and what happened to him.
- Let's open up our Bibles and look at this story.
- *Nehemiah 1:1-4*
- *The words of Nehemiah son of Hakaliah:*
- *In the month of Kislev in the twentieth year, while I was in the citadel of Susa, 2 Hanani, one of my brothers, came from Judah with some other men, and I questioned them about the Jewish remnant that had survived the exile, and also about Jerusalem.*
- *3 They said to me, "Those who survived the exile and are back in the province are in great trouble and disgrace. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been burned with fire."*

- *4 When I heard these things, I sat down and wept. For some days I mourned and fasted and prayed before the God of heaven.*
- So when he heard about the stuff that had happened he didn't just rush out and try to fix things. He had patience and he prayed. Faith sometimes means that we are willing to wait for something.
- **Do any of you have trouble waiting for things? What if you have money do you like to save it or spend it?**
- It is hard to wait for things to happen, but when we have faith, sometimes that means we have to wait and believe that God will come through and answer us.
- **What are some of the things that you have prayed about?**
- **Did those things happen right away?** Sometimes you had to wait for them.
- Faith is believing that God will come through for you even if you have to wait.
- **Story about a boy who isn't worried that his dad is late, because "He always comes"**
- We know that God is good so we trust him and trust that he will come.
- Faith is being willing to wait.
- Faith is also being willing to act when we know the time is right.
- **Blindfolded build game**
- (two people blindfolded trying to build a simple car out of lego parts. You probably need to plan on multiple pairs playing this game as many people will want to play)
- *In this game you couldn't see what you were doing, but that didn't mean that you could just sit and wait. Sometimes we have to be willing to move forward because we have faith that it is the right thing to do.*
- Nehemiah understood that asking to go and fix Jerusalem was the right thing to do so he had faith that God would take care of him while he did it.
- **What are some of the things that you know is the right thing to do, but you are sometimes scared to do?**
- You can take up for a friend, stand up to bullies, turn in a cheater, tell the truth even if it will get you in trouble, or a whole lot of other things that you know is

the right thing to do.

- Faith means that not only are you willing to wait for God to show up, but you are also willing to do what you know is right because you have faith that God will take care of you.
- So we have learned that faith is believing with actions. We have learned that those actions are sometimes wait and sometimes go, next week we are going to look at how having faith sometimes means being willing to search for something that you know is there, but you can't quite seem to find.
- Before we finish today I want to talk just for a bit about why we have faith. We have faith because Jesus died for our sins, and now he is inviting you to live your life his way.
- If we do, if we turn our heart and life over to Jesus. He will transform you from the inside out and will use you to change the world.
- If that is something you are interested in why not come talk to me after we finish here.