



## ***Faith in Action***

### ***“Vision”***

*“For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end and does not lie. If it seems to tarry wait for it. It will surely come...” Habakkuk 2:3*

**Lesson:** Covid-19, systemic racism and division, humanitarian crisis, violence, war and climate change – one of these global injustices is enough to challenge the Job inside of us to question God’s presence, much rather love, in the world, let alone so many. As Christians, our hope lays in the eternal and unchanging nature of God. Because God has been good forever, we can trust that God will remain so forever. The same is true for God’s loving vision and plan. While God’s plan doesn’t promise that our lives will be free from challenges and hardship, we can be assured that God is continually at work in the world and in our lives to make the end vision of reconciliation and restoration a reality for us and all of creation. *“For God so loved the world (John 3:16).*

#### ***The Game of “Life”***

**Pick a game, any game and you’ll find they all have two things in common in the end – chance and luck.**

**Fortunately, our lives aren’t played out by the random luck of a draw. Instead, they are governed by the plan of a God who has a purpose. So, pick a day this week to purposefully pull a game of luck from its shelf to play with your family. Use the highs and lows of the game play to explain to your child that our fate and that of the world never depends on a roll of the dice, but has instead been strategized by God, who has a bird’s eye view of the entire game board and all of its players, us!**



#### ***Trust in God is an “A-Mazing” Thing***

*You don’t have to go skydiving or mountain climbing to teach your child how trust in God works. You can instead start at home by creating an indoor or outdoor obstacle course to help guide them through, just like God us on the winding and challenging path of life.*

*When building your home course, make sure to use many different obstacles, like makeshift tunnels, safe obstacles and smooth turns. Remember that your little disciple will be blindfolded and trusting in you to guide them. The following link provides safe and fun ways sure to make your obstacle course the talk of the town, including the use of toilet and crepe paper, lava floor and hints to help add a storyline to the adventure.*  
<https://www.parents.com/fun/activities/indoor/indoor-obstacle-course-ideas-for-kids/>

*As you’re cleaning-up together, relate each obstacle to life moment and how God felt present or absent at that time and what they can do to better trust God’s voice, like yours.*

### Those Oldies but Goodies

**Everything old may not be new again, but its lasting power makes it worthy of our trust.**

**Before sitting down to talk to your child about the eternal nature of God's dependability, find something in or around your home that is worthy of your time-tested trust, like an aging car, an old-fashioned tool or hand-appliance or maybe even a wise family sage or friend, that you can always rely on no matter what. Then use this item for an object lesson in how we can trust our God who is eternally good and only wants the best for us.**

You're going to have to just trust me on this one!

<https://www.creativebiblestudy.com/object-lesson-trust.html>

### Life is like a Dump Cake

If any cake demands a baker's trust from start to finish, it's a dump cake. Dump in a greased pan a drained 20 oz. can of crushed pineapple, a 21 oz. can of cherry pie filling, sprinkle a box of yellow cake mix over it, slice up a stick of butter and put it throughout and there you have it – a big mess...until at least it all comes together in a 350 degree oven just like the recipe said it would.

This cake is too much like our messy world and the role of God's well-conceived plan in it not to be used as a teaching moment (and it's pretty delicious too!). So, this week dump a cake with your child while talking about how, when we follow God's instructions, like the Bible says, we can trust God to make something satisfying for us all in the end

### I Wonder what... it Feels like to Children

**The uncertainty and fear caused by COVID-19 can challenge even the most mature adult faith. Try to imagine what this new normal must feel like for our children who are torn between their magical thinking that sees God, who saves us from the perils of life in a flash, and the reality of a God whose ongoing plan takes patience and trust.**

**Biblical stories about youth similarly caught between life's overwhelming obstacles and their faith can help put God's bigger picture in focus. Joseph's betrayal at the hands of his brothers and his rise as one of Egypt's most powerful men (Genesis 37 -50) (see [https://www.dltk-kids.com/bible/genesis/story\\_of\\_joseph-cv.htm](https://www.dltk-kids.com/bible/genesis/story_of_joseph-cv.htm) for a shortened version) and David's battle against the giant, Goliath (1 Samuel 17) are great lessons to help children better start to understand God's abiding presence and plan in the face of adversity.**

**When reading these stories with your child, be sure to pause often and reflect with "I wonder..." questions (i.e. I wonder how David felt when he saw how big Goliath was? I wonder how Joseph felt when his world was turned upside down? I wonder how God felt when God saw their fear? I wonder how God feels when God sees us afraid now?) I wonder questions allow children to dig deeper inside of themselves to discover and experience God.**

### The Big Picture

**Okay, so maybe a virtual art gallery isn't exactly your family's idea of Friday night fun. But it is a helpful way to illustrate how God's perspective is like a work of art, created with the bigger picture in mind.**

**Start by browsing some masterpieces online through their home galleries. The following link offers a few great options including the Met <https://www.weareteachers.com/virtual-museum-tours/>. If time is an issue, Google your favorite or use one from your wall. Then talk to your child about what vision the artist may have had before beginning the creation process and what vision God may have had before creating the world. To enforce this message, use a piece of paper to blot out all of the painting except a small piece, then talk about how we must always see the whole of any work of art to appreciate its beauty and meaning...including life and the world.**