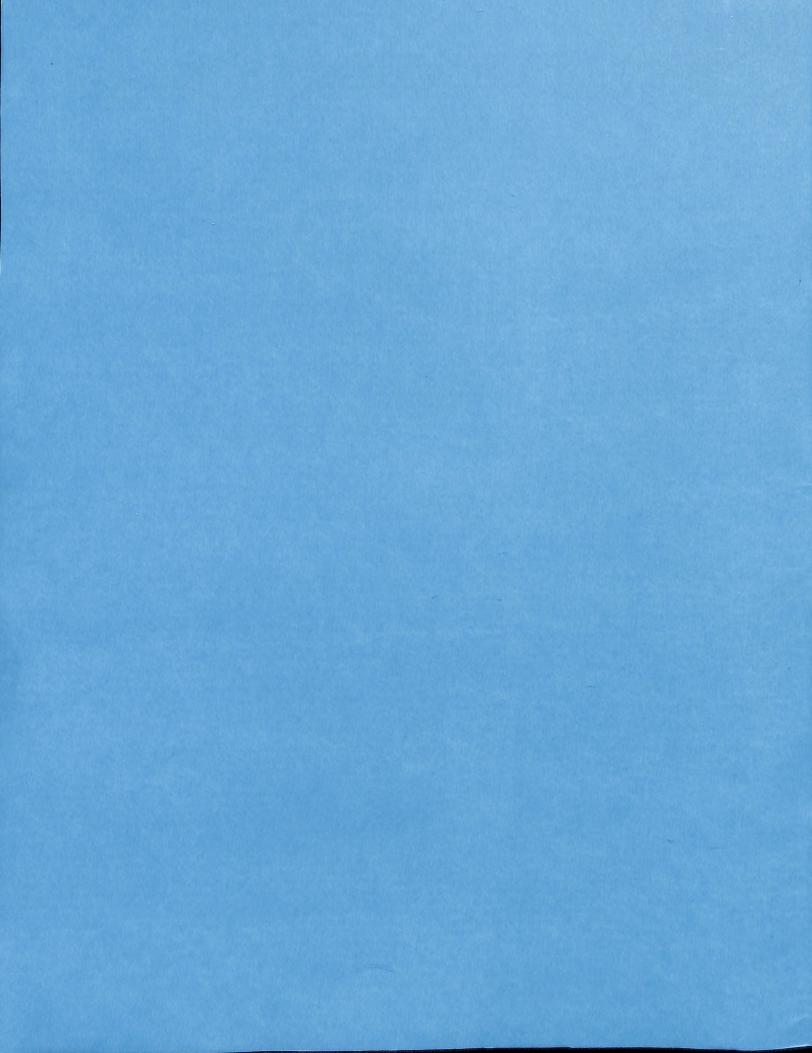
My Faith

REVISED EDITION



To Know, To Live, To Grow



PARTICIPANT

My Faith

REVISED EDITION

Contents
Session 1: What Is Faith?
Session 2: So What?
Session 3: The Gift: Life!
Session 4: I Doubt It! I'm in the Dark!
Session 5: Confession: I'm a Sinner
Session 6: Forgiveness
Session 7: What Do I Believe?
Session 8: What Do I Have to Offer?
Session 9: I Believe
Name
Address

Telephone

E-Mail



To Know, To Live, To Grow

Augsburg Fortress
MINNEAPOLIS

PARTICIPANT

My Faith

REVISED EDITION

Writer

Terri Martinson Elton

Editors

Jeffrey S. Nelson Jill Carroll Lafferty Connie Sletto

Graphic Designer

Marti Naughton

Copyright © 2004 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Except for brief quotations in critical articles or reviews, no part of this book may be reproduced without prior written permission from the publisher. Write to: Permissions, Augsburg Fortress, Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440.

The original edition of this resource was published by Changing Church, Inc., Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Burnsville, Minnesota.

Scripture quotations are from New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.

ISBN 0-8066-4923-2

Manufactured in U.S.A.

What Is Faith?

Scripture Text Hebrews 11

Begin by sharing your name. Then share the following:

- a high point and a low point of your day.
- your favorite story about your family.

As a group, make a list of things you believe in, but have never actually seen, like gravity, electricity, molecules, atoms, sound waves, and so forth.

Open with prayer.

This session's theme is "What Is Faith?" What is it anyway? Faith is an untouchable, sometimes indescribable concept. For the next few sessions, the group will look at faith from many angles. We'll begin by studying Scripture, and then we'll each write our own definition of faith, the first step in building our own faith statements.

Do You Believe?

Look at these pictures and try to identify the location, then reflect on these questions:

- Has anyone been to this place? Do you think it exists? Why or why not? Why might you have doubts that it exists? What would make you believe it exists?
- Go back to the list of things you know exist, but have never seen. Can you add anything else?
- As a group, discuss the reasons we believe in these things.

Scripture Discussion and Reflection

The book of Hebrews, found in the New Testament, is actually a commentary on the Old Testament. Hebrews examines Jewish customs and relates them to the new covenant we have in Jesus Christ. Chapter 11 is an account of many Old Testament heroes. Hebrews describes how these people demonstrated their faith in God. Read aloud and discuss Hebrews 11:1, 3, 6, 13-16, 39-40.

- What definition of *faith* is given in Hebrews?
- What happens if we fail to have faith?
- What happens if we do have faith?

God does not promise us an easy life if we have faith. In fact, the result of faith is often something we will not experience here on earth. Reread Hebrews 11.

	Hebrews 11:4	Cain and Abel (Genesis 4)
	Hebrews 11:7	Noah (Genesis 6–9)
	Hebrews 11:8-12	Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 12–15)
	Hebrews 11:17-19	Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22:1-18)
	Hebrews 11:20-22	Isaac, Jacob, Joseph (Genesis 25:19-26; 27:1-29; 37)
	Hebrews 11:23-29	Moses (Exodus 3–34)
	Hebrews 11:30-31	Rahab/Jericho (Joshua 2, 6)
•	Describe the story.	See the references in parentheses above.)
		•
,	Name some of the o	bstacles these people had to overcome
	Traine some of the of	bounded these people had to overcome.
,	How did their faith l	nelp them overcome obstacles?
	Trow and their faith i	telp them overcome obstacles.
	List people you know	w who have faith in God. How have these people
	demonstrated their f	

Trust Falls

Form pairs. Position one person in front of the other, facing the same direction. When you are both ready, the front person says, "Ready." The back person responds, "Ready." The front person says, "Falling," and falls backward into the waiting hands of the back person. Now move a little farther apart. Once more, signal ready, and the front person falls backward into the waiting hands of the back person. Experience both positions. Discuss the following questions:

- What role does faith have in this activity?
- How well did you know your partner? How did your prior relationship affect your ability to trust?
- After a few catches, did your faith in your partner grow?

- How is this exercise similar to having faith in God?
- Whom do you trust? Your family? Your friends? Why? Is there someone you would trust with your life?
- Do we trust God with our lives?
- How do we build our trust in God?

Sometimes faith is like losing control and falling into someone else's arms (God's arms). Faith is letting go and believing God will carry us. Just as it is with people, faith in God is built over time. Building faith requires that we get to know God and let God know who we are, too.

Faith in Film (Optional)

View the scene leading up to the opening of the ark in the movie Raiders of the Lost Ark (Paramount Studios, 1981).

• What's the faith message?

0					1.
Цſ	Si	mη	m	nr	١ſ
П٢	ולו	ш	Ш	ы	ш
110	JOI	чи	1111	U)	L

 se to do one thing in the next week to get to known in the space below:	w God better.
 -	
	E.
ole for a definition of faith: a parent or caregiver, Then, write your own personal definition of fait	
	=

Close with the Lord's Prayer.

So What?

Share one or more of the following:

- a high point and a low point of your day.
- your written definition of faith assigned in the last session.
- one thing you did to get to know about God this past week.
- three qualities you look for in a friend.

The Heart

One heart is available for a heart transplant and ten heart patients match the donor. Each of you represents one of these patients. Read the description for your character, then tell the rest of us why you are the most qualified to receive the heart. At the end, have the group vote for who should get the heart.

- 1. 15-year-old soccer player: Good student; popular; participates in school activities; student council officer.
- 2. **35-year-old mother:** Two kids; single parent; nurse; volunteer at the women's shelter.
- 3. 80-year-old grandfather: Married; retired; volunteer at the nursing home; has four grandchildren.
- 4. 10-year-old girl: On welfare; only child; loves animals and wants to be a veterinarian.
- 5. 50-year-old accountant: Divorced; father of two children; leader in his church.
- **6. 30-year-old teacher:** Newlywed; works in special education; leader in environmental clean-up efforts.
- 7. 18-year-old musician: Senior in high school; member of church singing group; works with SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions).
- 8. 22-year-old college graduate: Youth leader; single; wants to be a missionary.
- 9. 55-year-old pastor: Married; world traveler; is starting a new church in the inner-city of Chicago.
- 10. 40-year-old recovering alcoholic: Divorced; is creating a new drug prevention program for youth.

Who should get the heart? How did you decide?

- Name some of the important factors that led you to this decision.
- Write down ten things you value in life in the column to the right.
- What does God value in your life?
- What value does faith give your life?

Open with prayer.

Scripture Text

1 Timothy 1:12, 14, 16

2 Corinthians 4:15-18

Ten Things I Value in Life
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8.
·

This session deals with why we should have faith. If faith is unseen and untouchable, how can it be relevant? With so many options open to us, why should we believe in God? Why should we have faith? One thing faith offers us is a reason to live. This will be our focus.

Scripture Discussion and Reflection

The apostle Paul helped start many of the early Christian churches. He wrote letters to these churches as well as to people working in these churches. The book of Timothy is a letter from Paul to his companion and loyal friend. As Paul was getting older, he began sending Timothy to many of the churches he had started, to act as a kind of pastor. Paul was preparing Timothy to help these churches get back on the right track. These churches needed help getting organized and in addressing their society's problems. Read aloud and discuss 1 Timothy 1:12, 14, 16; and 2 Corinthians 4:15-18.

	sed on these verses, who do you think God would have chosen to rec heart from the opening activity?
Wh	nat do these verses say we must do in order to receive our "heart"?
Wh	nat reason do these verses give us to believe in God?
Но	w is faith relevant in our lives today?

God offers the gift of grace to everyone. Belief in God includes the gift of eternal life with God. God knows the things of this world are tempting to us. We tend to put our time, money, and effort into achieving success in this world. As we continue to devote ourselves to the world, it tends to become more and more important to us. Our beliefs and values become based on our experience in the world, rather than on our relationship with God.

This Is Your Time (Optional)

Read the words or listen to the song "This is Your Time" performed by Michael W. Smith ("This is Your Time," written by Smith and Wes King in memory of Cassie Bernall, who died at Columbine High School, © 1999 Reunion Records).

- · How would God respond to this song?
- How does faith give us a reason for living?
- How does having faith impact your choices?
- Why should we have faith in God?

But God gives us free will in the matters of the world. We can choose to invest in the world, and make our choices based on worldly values. Or, we can choose to invest in God, and make choices based on our Christian values. Share with one another:

- a time when you made choices based on worldly values: success, ambition, good looks, and so forth.
- a time when you made choices based on Christian values: faith, servanthood, and so forth.

0				٦.
HС	CIO	mm	len	ı
115	5111	11111	11:11	ı
110	010	1111	LOIL	•

Close with the Lord's Prayer.

Make a promise to take 15 minutes in the next week to invest in God. This may be a time of prayer, service, devotion, praise, or worship. Write your promise here:		
Write a description of yourself in the space be tions of the heart patients). For what do you are the important pieces of your life? Keep in in your life.	want to be remembered? What	
My Description of Me		
	47.	

The Gift: Life!

Scripture Text

Romans 6:22-23 Ephesians 2:8-10 Share one or more of the following:

- a high point and a low point of your day.
- how you described yourself in the assignment from the last session.
- · how you invested in God last week.

As a group, describe the "ideal" life.

Open with prayer.

This session's theme centers on the gift of life. Having faith in God really does make a difference. Faith in God brings with it the gift of life with God, both here on earth and eternally in heaven.

Ragman

Read the story "Ragman" in the book Ragman and Other Cries of Faith by Walter Wangerin Jr. As a group, discuss the following questions:

- What role did the Ragman play?
- What did the Ragman offer people?
- What did the people have to do to receive the Ragman's gift?
- Did the Ragman treat these people equally?
- How were these people's lives changed by the Ragman?
- Put yourself in the place of one of the characters in this story. Describe what your life would be like after the Ragman made you whole.

Scripture Discussion and Reflection

The books of Romans and Ephesians were both written by the apostle Paul to the early Christian churches in Rome and Ephesus. Although they were written quite a long time ago, they are still relevant in our lives and for our present-day churches. Read aloud and discuss Romans 6:22-23 and Ephesians 2:8-10.

•	From what has God set us free?
•	What is the result of sin?
•	God gives us the gift of grace. Define grace.
•	How do we receive this gift?
•	Can we be saved without the gift of grace?
Re	New Point of View write Romans 6:22-23 and Ephesians 2:8-10 in your own words in the space low. Describe the gift God gives us.
— H	ow does the gift of eternal life change the focus of our lives today on earth?

Jesus Is Life (Optional)

Read the words or listen to the song "Jesus Is Life" performed by Steven Curtis Chapman on Declaration (© 2001 Sparrow Records).

- Why is Jesus *life*?
- Why is it important to have a life with its foundation on God?

^					1
Ц	COL	nn	m	nn	ı
П	551	111	ш	۲II	ı
ΙL	ssi	91	LILL	זנטו	

during the next week.

Pick one of the following options to describe how you imagine life with God. Use the space below if you want to.

- Rewrite the words to a song.
- Make a drawing or painting.
- Make a collage of pictures.
- Write a story.
- Other? (Be creative!)

Close using Psalm 67 as your prayer.

I Doubt It! I'm in the Dark!

Open with prayer.

This session focuses on the times in life when we doubt. Our doubts may be about God's existence, God's presence in our world, or times when we are not sure our faith is strong enough. Faith and doubt, like light and darkness, often parallel each other. While doubt might be a risky thing to talk about with others, especially in a church, you are challenged to let down your guard and talk about times of doubt in your life. Remember, sin is separation from God (or God's will). We are all born into sin; therefore, all of us struggle with the idea of being separated from God.

Scripture Text 1 Corinthians 13:12 John 1:1-5

Make a Match!

- Did you have a tough time finding your matching piece?
- Did some people have an easier time than others?
- If you were the last pair to remove your blindfolds, how did you feel?
- Name some times when you've felt doubtful. How did you feel about yourself?

Scripture Discussion and Reflection

First Corinthians is a letter from the apostle Paul to the church at Corinth. Paul was troubled by the problems this church was experiencing, and this letter is his direct response to these issues. Read aloud and discuss 1 Corinthians 13:12.

Reflections in a Mirror

- Is this all of you? What's missing? What if you had a bigger mirror? Could you see everything?
- How does this activity relate to our image of God?
- As humans, can we truly understand all of God's nature? Reread 1 Corinthians 13:12.

In the Dark

- How did you work together to identify the object?
- How can we, as a group, help each other in times of darkness?
- How can we overcome the darkness?
- How does God help us when we are in the dark? Read John 1:1-5.

Mystery Moment

- How did you feel as the questioner?
- How did you feel as the solution was explained to you?
- How is this exercise similar to 1 Corinthians 13:12?

Some things about God we can understand, but some things of God are a mystery. For instance, we can relate to God's loving us because we are capable of loving one another. However, we don't physically experience God through touches or hugs. It is hard to live with this mystery. We prefer the sense of security found in explainable, knowable terms. We want to see all of God.

We are often frustrated by trying to attach human reasoning to godly actions. God does not give us specific reasons for certain events. If we are hurt, we wonder why. But God holds us in love. We can also welcome times of doubt, rather than fearing them. God is so awesome, so huge, so overwhelming, we cannot possibly completely understand God.

We cannot put God in a box. God is open to everyone, all denominations and churches.

7	Why is it hard to accept doubt?
• I	s it normal to doubt?
-	
,	What is good about your ability to doubt?
· I	How do you think God responds when we doubt?
· I	How does doubting affect our faith?

Think of a time in which you doubted. Form pairs and talk to your partner about how that felt for you.

- Do you still have doubts? Explain.
- How can we help each other in times of doubt?
- What does God promise us when we experience times of doubt?

Assignment

Write about a time you experienced doubt.
How did it feel?
Could you talk with other people?
Did you get over it? If so, how?
What part did God play in your doubt?

Close using Psalm 139:7-12 as your prayer.

This Day (Optional)

Read the words or listen to the song "This Day" performed by Steve Curtis Chapman on *Declaration* (© 2001 Sparrow Records).

 What does this song say about faith and doubt?

Confession: I'm a Sinner

Share one or more of the following:

- a high point and a low point of your day.
- what you wrote last session about doubt.
- · a time you made a fool of yourself.

Open with prayer.

Each of us is a sinner. God calls us to confess our sins and to ask for forgiveness. Through the gift of forgiveness, God wipes away the hurtful things we do and say. At times, we do not love our neighbors or ourselves, and we walk away from God. Confession helps us to admit this to God, and so we are freed from these sins. Through God's forgiveness, we are allowed to leave those sins behind, believing our sins are indeed forgiven. Faith is asking for forgiveness, receiving forgiveness, and living as forgiven people.

Scripture Discussion and Reflection

The book of 1 Peter may have been written by Peter, another one of the early church leaders. Peter was writing to people facing severe dangers. He writes about the meaning of Christ's suffering for us. Read and discuss Romans 5:1-8; 1 Peter 5:6, 10; and 1 John 1:8-10.

What does God promise to those experiencing hurt?
Who is a sinner?
What are we to do with our sin?
What did Christ do for us?
Why did Christ do this?

Scripture Text

Romans 5:1-8 1 Peter 5:6, 10 1 John 1:8-10

Confession in Worship

Confession	Read the following confession from Lutheran Book of Worship, page 56.
	"Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen"
	Why is it important to begin worship with a time of confession?
	How often do we need to confess our sins?
	How often do you sin?
Absolution	
	Read the following absolution from <i>Lutheran Book of Worship</i> , page 56.
	"In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit." 1
	• Think of a time when you were forgiven. What was it like? How did it feel?
	I Confess
	As a group, rewrite the confession and absolution in your own words. Copy this in the space to the left.

^{1.} Lutheran Book of Worship, copyright © 1978.

Sin Bucket

Dip your hands, one at a time, into the flour/dirt bucket. After all hands are dirty, spend time in silence thinking of sins you may want to confess. Then, one at a time, dip dirty hands into the water bucket, symbolizing the washing away of your sins.

• How is this like confession and absolution?

Assignment

Choose one verse you read earlier from Romans, 1 Peter, or 1 John. Write the verse in the space below, and memorize it in the coming week.			e the	
	-			

Describe a time when you have sinned (a time you're not proud of or a time you are sorry for). Did you tell someone about your sin? Were you forgiven for the sin? Describe your feelings. Use the space below for your answers.

Close with prayer: Use the prayers found on pages 42-53 in Lutheran Book of Worship. Each person may choose one prayer to read aloud.

Forgiveness

Scripture Text

Romans 7:15-20; 8:1-2 Colossians 2:13-15 Psalm 51:10-12

Share one or more of the following:

- a high point and a low point of your day.
- · what you wrote in the last session about sin.
- · a time you forgave someone else.

Open with prayer.

This session focuses on the gift of forgiveness and on living as forgiven people. God offers the gift of forgiveness to each of us every day. God's forgiveness has no strings attached.

Choose your favorite Bible verse. Write it in the space below, along with a brief comment about why this verse has special meaning for you.
Share your verse with others in the class. Write down references of the verses that others have chosen.

Sin and Forgiveness

As we discussed in the last session, we are people who sin. As we focus now on forgiveness, let's hear once again what the Bible says about sin and forgiveness.

Re	ad Romans 7:15-20. What do these verses say about our sin?
_	
	ad Romans 8:1-2. What do these verses say about God's love active in r lives?
_	
	ad Colossians 2:13-15. What do these verses say about how forgiveness anges our life?
	ad Psalm 51:10-12. These words were written by King David pleading d to forgive him of his sin. What do they say to us today?

Savior (Optional)

Read the words or listen to the song "Savior" performed by Steven Curtis Chapman on Declaration (© 2001 Sparrow Records).

• Why do we need a savior, someone to save us from our sins?

Communion Worship Service

Celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion as you worship the God of forgiveness. During Communion we offer our sins to God, and we remember the death and resurrection of Christ. We come together with other sinners in this time, and leave celebrating life with God. Faith is celebrating forgiveness.

- Confession and Absolution
- Bible readings
- Sermon
- Song
- Words of Institution
- Activity
- Communion
- Prayers
- Song

Celebration!

Celebrate the freedom of forgiveness by sharing ice cream sundaes.

Close with prayer.

What Do I Believe?

Share one or more of the following:

- a high point and a low point of your day.
- your favorite Bible verse. Read it. Why did you choose this verse?
- one thing in which your mother or father believes.

Open with prayer.

In this session we're going to begin talking about what we personally believe. As a church, we have statements of faith. We call these statements *creeds*. A creed is a statement of belief or opinion.

- What do you believe in other areas of your life? For instance, how do you feel about freedom of speech? Education? Gay rights? Abortion? Racism? Family values?
- Name some of the things you believe as a citizen of your country: democracy, freedom of speech, right to a fair trial, and so forth.

Your challenge today is to begin creating your own statement of faith. The following creed describes the faith of the church, and is a good place to start looking for ideas. So, what do you believe about God?

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.1

What are the themes in this creed?
Which of these themes do you believe?
,

1. The English translation of the Apostles' Creed is prepared by the International Consultation on English Texts (ICET), copyright © 1970, 1971, and 1975.

Text

Apostles' Creed

What Do I Believe about God? about family? about friendship? about school? about politics? about my country? about marriage? about peace? about war? about children? about adults? about drugs? about the future? about me?

What additional things would you add to your statement of belief?	
	s to share our beliefs with others. Name some gs you think others should know.
Faith Statement	
Use the examples from today to verse you chose in the last session	y, and so forth) your own statement of belief. o get ideas. You might want to use the Bible on. Whatever you do, let your statement repre- neaningful to you. Tell, read, or show your y did that person react?
Some ideas about what I belie	ve:
-	

Close with the Lord's Prayer.

What Do I Have to Offer?

Share one or more of the following:

- a high point and a low point of your day.
- the name of the person with whom you shared your faith statement. What was his or her reaction?
- · one thing you do well.

Open with prayer.

In this session, instead of focusing on what we believe, we're going to talk about how we act out our faith in the world. Read James 2:14-18. What do these verses challenge us to do?		
amo	at is it that I have to offer others? What kind of an influence can I be ong my friends and family? These questions ask us to begin using our gifts living what we believe.	
• N	Tame some gifts you can offer to others.	
_		
• H	Now can you act out your faith by sharing these gifts?	
_		
	Name three service projects you've completed. Think about volunteer time, nission trips, school programs, church projects, and so forth.	
-		
• H	How do you live out your faith through these projects?	
_		

Scripture Text

James 2:14-18 Philippians 2:6-11 1 Peter 4:10-11

Scripture Discussion and Reflection

Philippians is a simple, straightforward letter written by the apostle Paul to the church at Philippi. Although Paul himself endured a great deal of hardship at this time, he chose to focus on joy and rejoicing in this letter. He wrote with a great deal of compassion, as if talking to his closest friends. Read aloud and discuss Philippians 2:6-11 and 1 Peter 4:10-11.

What do Peter and Paul say we are to do with our gifts?
Who are we to recognize first in our lives?
Who is to be the model for our behavior?
How does faith transform our lives?
How does living in grace affect our lives?
Faith Statement
Add another component to your faith statement, reflecting the way you live out your faith. It may be demonstrated through service projects, or in the wayou treat your friends. It may be a cheerful smile or a listening ear. How I live out my faith:
•

Close with prayer: Each person in the group should say a one-sentence prayer, thanking God for his or her gifts.

Live Out Loud (Optional)

Read the words or listen to the song "Live Out Loud" performed by Steven Curtis Chapman, written by Chapman and Geoff Moore, on Declaration (© 2001, Sparrow Records).

- What does the message say about a living faith? What does this song stress?
- Name some of the ways this song represents the beliefs of the singer.
- Give three examples of acting out your faith in your family, with your friends, and at school.
- Name some of the world's needs.
- How can we help?
- In one sentence, summarize God's goal for your life.

I Believe

Share one or more of the following:

- a high point and a low point of your day.
- a service project you would enjoy working on.
- a time when your faith in God was particularly meaningful.

Open with prayer.

This session briefly reviews the past eight sessions. Spend most of the time sharing your favorite Bible verses and your faith statements.

Review

Each session has been based on a theme. Look back in your book and write down one important point from each session. As you do, take note of the various New Testament books you have studied. On page 26, make note of one or two things you have learned from those books.

Sessions:

•	What Is Faith?		
•	So What?		
		Surge (Barby L. Charles	
•			
•	I Doubt It! I'm in the Dark!		
•			
•	Forgiveness		
•	What Do I Believe?		
•	What Do I Have to Offer?		

Scripture Text

Review texts from the previous sessions.

Books of the New Testament: • Romans _____ • 1 Corinthians _____ 2 Corinthians • Ephesians _____ • Philippians _____ • 1 Timothy _____ Hebrews

Scripture Discussion and Reflection

• 1 John _____

Share the Bible verses you have chosen as your favorites. Explain to the group why these verses have special meaning for you. Listen respectfully to others.

Affirmations

Write one-sentence notes to each person in your group, describing one thing you appreciate about that person.

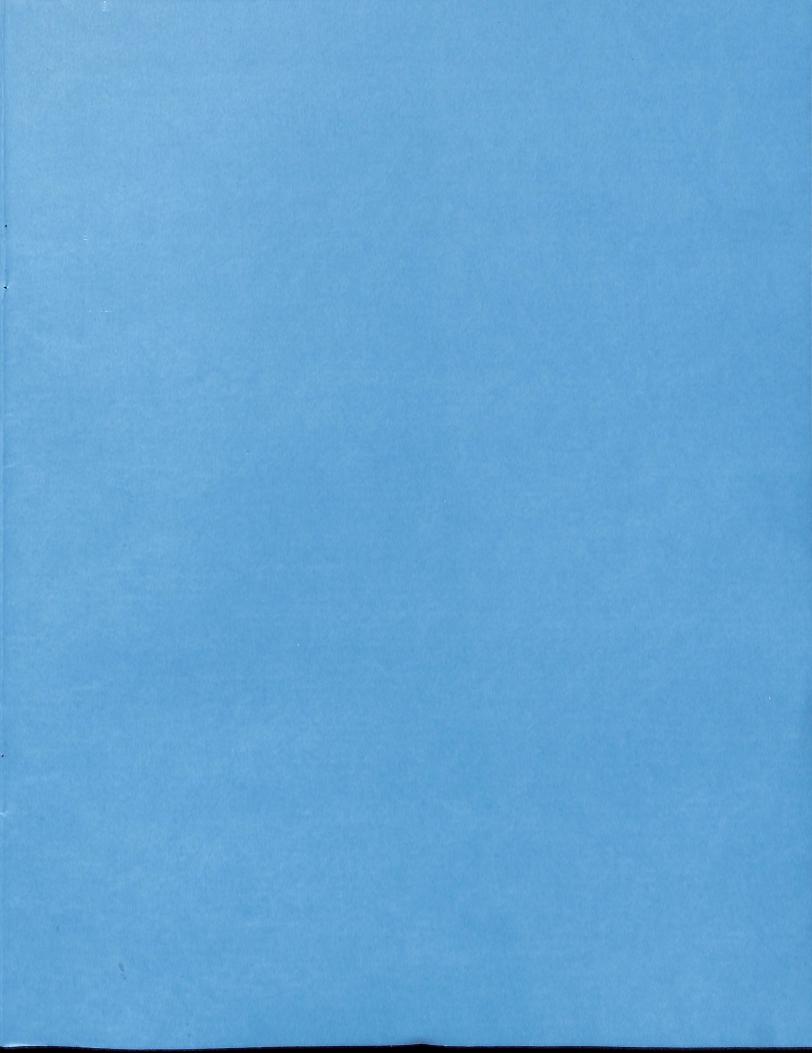
Failh Statements

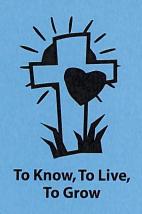
Keep a copy of your faith statement for yourself and turn in one copy to the group leader. Now that the faith statements are completed, think about ways you can share your faith with the world around you. Brainstorm ideas together.

We are called to be Christ at all times. How can we share our faith in different		
situations: at home, at school, at church?		
We are called to share our faith personally. Name some people or groups you would feel comfortable sharing your faith with.		
Name some people you might feel uncomfortable sharing your faith with.		
How can you overcome or get beyond this discomfort?		
riow can you overcome or get beyond this disconnort:		

Close with the following prayer.

God, thank you for each one of us here. You have blessed us with the opportunity to choose what we believe. Let us look to you for guidance. God, you promise us life filled with forgiveness. You offer us hope, when the world does not. You love us as no one else can. You have given us this time to learn more about you and where you fit in our lives. Now, as we profess our own personal belief in you and move on to the responsibility for living faith, we ask for your comfort, your strength, and your hope to be made real in our lives. Thank you, Lord, for your gift. Amen





Apostles' Creed
Building the Christian Church
Jesus of Nazareth
Lord's Prayer
Meaning of Service: Living in Love
My Faith
New Testament
Old Testament
Ten Commandments
What Is a Lutheran?

ISBN-13: 978-0-8066-4923-8 ISBN-10: 0-8066-4923-2



Augsburg Fortress www.augsburgfortress.org