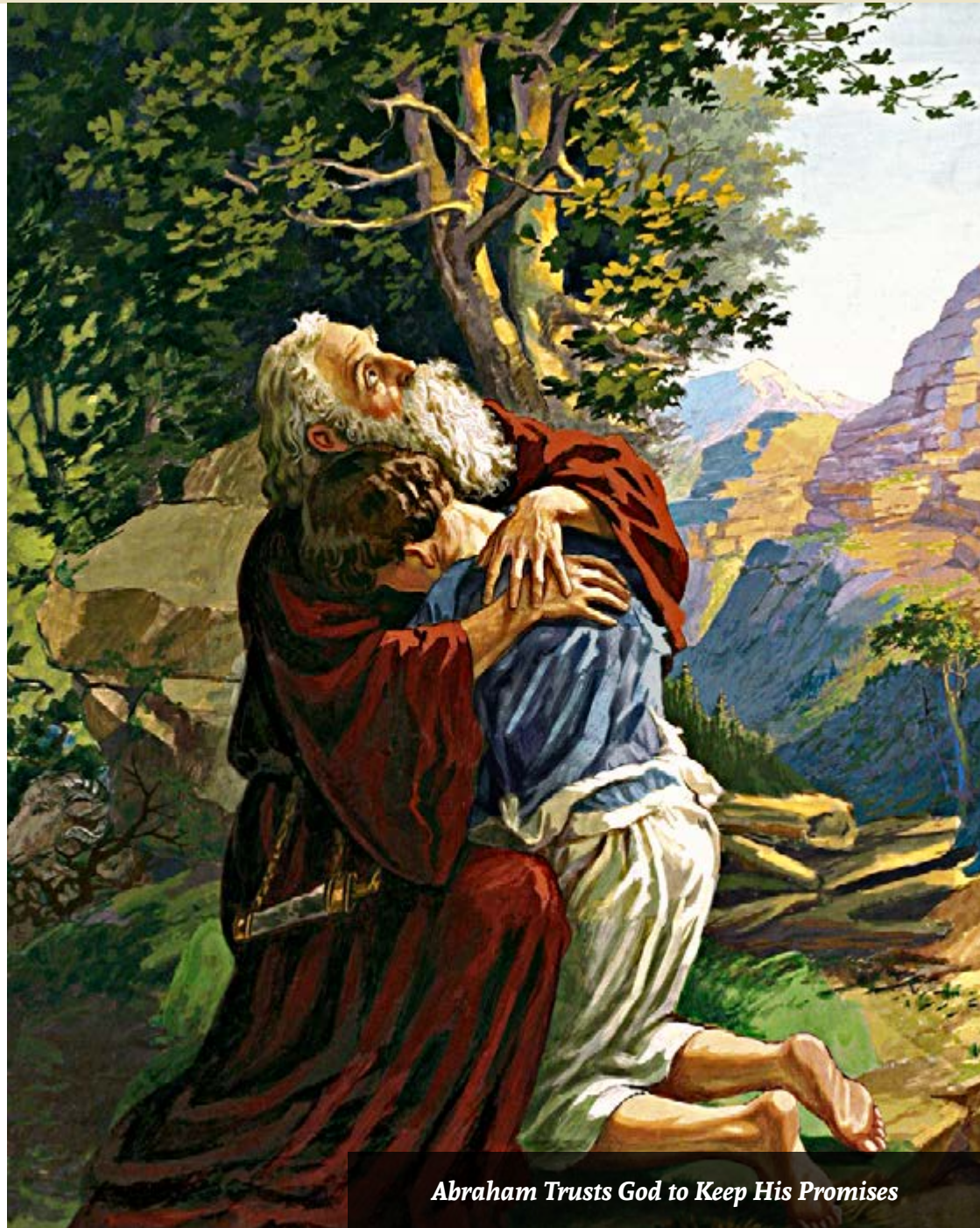


Faith

INTRODUCTION

God's Word is a treasure chest of promises just waiting to be opened and received! For example, God declares that He is gracious, merciful, and slow to anger. He is near to those who sincerely call on Him. God also forms and fulfills the desires of those who fear Him. He preserves the eternal souls who love Him. All of these specific promises are found in a single psalm—Psalm 145! Plus, there are thousands more promises in the Bible! You can receive God's promises by trusting and acting on His Word. "There failed not ought of any good thing which the LORD had spoken unto the house of Israel; all came to pass" (Joshua 21:45). Be encouraged to know that this powerful God of the Bible is alive and true to His Word today!



Abraham Trusts God to Keep His Promises

FAITH

Visualizing what God intends to do in a given situation and acting in harmony with it

Faith Overview

What Is Faith?

Read aloud and discuss what faith means and how it applies to life.

The operational definition of *faith* is “visualizing what God intends to do in a given situation and acting in harmony with it.” Often, the word *faith* is used to describe “religion” or “a person’s beliefs.” However, Biblical faith is seeing Who God is, discerning (visualizing) His will, and confidently obeying Him. Faith in God gives us access to His grace. (See *Romans 5:2.*)

Faith is developed by learning to hear God’s voice through His Word. The Holy Spirit reveals Who God is and convicts of sin. He also directs in accordance with His Word and confirms with peace. A Christian’s hope is complete confidence that God will fulfill His promises, even



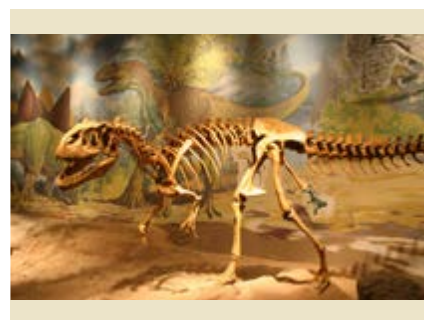
Just as a sleeping baby’s full weight rests on his parent, we demonstrate faith by fully resting in the Lord, trusting Him with all our needs.

while expectantly waiting for them to happen. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Those who exercise faith in God can overcome doubt and experience God’s supernatural peace and joy in stressful situations.

The opposite of *faith* is “unbelief.” When a person questions God, he is not trusting that God is Who He says He is. Doubting God is a denial of His faithfulness, which leads to relying on oneself or something other than Christ. Being independent reveals pride, which is the presumption that we know what is best for ourselves and others. This stubborn distrust is unbelief, which

often is expressed in complaints, fears, and rebellion. We demonstrate unbelief when we think, “I’m not sure God’s promises apply to my situation” or “I tried trusting God, but it didn’t work.” We may even conclude, “I need to be in control.” Acting on these lies will lead to disaster. Scripture warns, “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God” (Hebrews 3:12).

Imagine an earthly father who is kind, dependable, and hardworking. Wouldn’t his children have the confident expectation and assurance that whatever their dad promised,



Like the theory of evolution, unbelief looks at the evidence and denies the truth from the Bible in order to interpret things that are contrary to the Word of God.

he would do? Of course they would! Because of their father’s love and integrity, the children could confidently believe his word and be at rest. How much more should we trust our perfect, Heavenly Father, Who always keeps His Word? We can trust God because He loved us and died to redeem us from sin. If we doubt God’s love and goodness, we miss the joy of seeing His faithfulness and participating in His work. Our unbelief also prevents us from pleasing God: “But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Faith in Scripture

As you read and study God's Word, see Who He is, and allow Him to work in you, your life will become a radiant expression of Him. God will be glorified as His character is seen in you.

The Character of God

We see faithfulness and faith manifested through the Trinity in the following ways.

- **God, unlike man, is always worthy of our faith.**
(See Psalm 18:2, 118:8.)
- **God's faithfulness gives us reason to trust Him.**
(See Hebrews 10:23, I John 1:9.)
- **God is faithful to sanctify believers and to continue His work in us.**
(See Philippians 1:6, I Thessalonians 5:24.)
- **Jesus is the Author and Perfecter of our faith.**
(See Hebrews 12:2.)
- **Jesus steadfastly obeyed the will of God despite great suffering, because He had faith in His Father.**
(See Luke 22:42, I Peter 2:23.)
- **The Holy Spirit convinces the heart of truth and gives faith to say that Jesus is Lord.**
(See I Corinthians 12:3.)
- **The Holy Spirit produces faith in a believer's life.**
(See I Corinthians 12:8–9, Galatians 5:22–23.)

FAITH KEY VERSE

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

HEBREWS 11:1

Faith in My Life

Now let's examine some ways God wants us to live out faith daily.

- **Why is faith important?**
(See Romans 14:23, Ephesians 2:8.)
- **How can I receive faith?**
(See Romans 10:17.)
- **What enables me to please God and live the Christian life?**
(See Hebrews 11:6, Galatians 2:20.)
- **How is my faith evident or demonstrated?**
(See James 2:17–18.)
- **Who are the enemies of my faith?**
(See I Peter 5:8–9, Jude 1:3–4.)
- **What does God provide to protect me from the enemy?**
(See II Corinthians 10:3–5, Ephesians 6:16, 18.)
- **Why can I be confident that God's Word will come to pass?**
(See Psalm 119:160, II Corinthians 1:20.)

Bible Story

Abraham Trusts God to Keep His Promises

Abraham is called the “Father of Faith.” After he had walked with God for many years, one day God gave him a very difficult assignment. Because Abraham trusted God, he obeyed. Early the next morning, Abraham took his beloved son Isaac, two young men-servants, and a donkey, and they began a three-day journey to the place where God told him to offer a special sacrifice. The purpose of sacrifices was to maintain an open relationship between sinful man and holy God. With this particular sacrifice, God was testing Abraham to see whom he loved most: his son Isaac or God. God was also leading Abraham to the area where

God would one day sacrifice His Son. As the small group approached their destination, Abraham told the servants, “Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.” Isaac surveyed the supplies: the wood, the fire, and his father’s knife for slaughtering the sacrificial animal. He noticed that something was missing. “My father: Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Isaac asked. What would Abraham answer? What promise did Abraham fully expect God to fulfill?

Let’s read the Bible story in Genesis 22:8–19 and then discuss the following questions.

- 1. Isaac was the promised son through whom the promised Savior would come. What did God ask Abraham to do? (See Genesis 22:2.) What did Abraham believe God would do if he obediently offered up Isaac? (See Hebrews 11:17–19.)**

What are some promises God has given to you in His Word?

- 2. Who called to Abraham as he prepared to obey God? (See Genesis 22:11.)**

How quickly do you respond when you hear God’s Word? If you waver in unbelief, what might you pray? (See Mark 9:24, James 1:5–6.)

- 3. What did God say to Abraham when he willingly gave up what was most dear to him? (See Genesis 22:12.)**

If God asked you to give up a precious possession, would you obey? As you obey, what can you be assured of? (See Romans 8:28, Mark 7:37.) What is more important than your prized possessions? (See Philippians 3:7–9.)

- 4. *Jehovah-jireh* means “the Lord will provide.” What did God provide as the offering? (See Genesis 22:13–14.) Whom did God later provide as the sacrificial Lamb for sin? (See John 1:29, Romans 8:32.)**

What is God’s promise to you if you receive His Son, the Lamb of God? (See John 1:12, 3:16.) What must you do in order to receive God’s promise of salvation? (See Romans 10:9–10.)

- 5. After the sacrifice, for what did the Lord commend Abraham? (See Genesis 22:16, Hebrews 11:17–19.) Because Abraham obeyed in faith, what promises did he receive? (See Genesis 22:17–18.)**

What are the powerful results of receiving God’s promises? (See II Peter 1:3–4.)

- 6. What did God say of Abraham’s faith? (See Romans 4:3, 20–22.)**

For what specific promises will you thank and glorify God?

Memory Verse

Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is the substance
of things hoped for, the evidence
of things not seen.”

HEBREWS 11:1

Memory Verse Game: Unscramble!

Have the children each write a different assigned word or phrase from the memory verse on a sheet of paper. Collect the papers and shuffle them, then distribute the sheets facedown, one per child, so that the children do not see which words they received. On the count of three, have the children look at the words on their papers, and then time them to see how fast they can line up with the words in the correct order. Quote the verse together. Repeat mixing up the papers, redistributing, and timing the children as they line up until the children have memorized the verse.

Doers of the Word: Hebrews 11:1

In the blank below, write how this verse could be applied in your life, e.g., “be confident that You will answer my prayer,” “find a verse that applies to my situation,” or “pray with faith and hope.”

“Dear Lord, I yield to You and am willing to apply this verse. Help me to _____

I ask that You would develop faith in my life. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

When the Lord gives you an opportunity to apply this verse, write it in your journal to later recall God’s working in your life.

Word Puzzle

Word Search

Instructions

Enjoy meditating on and thinking about the words of the faith key verse and definition as you find them in the word search below. The underlined words are hidden horizontally, vertically, diagonally, or backwards. (Answers can be found on page 12.)

H P W A V S E E N O W
N G Q H X H F O R Y S
V I S U A L I Z I N G
S V U F H T H E H O N
I E B O A E V T T M I
N N S U N I B O I R H
T A T G D D T R W A T
J I A E N O T H E H F
S K N G N I T C A W O
F C C G O D H H S E S
E D E P O H S T E J L

Hebrews 11:1

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

Faith

Visualizing what God intends to do in a given situation and acting in harmony with it

If finding the underlined words is too difficult or frustrating for your child, assign only a few words to find, such as “the” and “God.” Younger children could point to the ABCs. Older children may enjoy the extra challenge of finding all the words of the verse instead of only the underlined words.

Activity

Feeling, Faith, and Fact Scramble

Supplies:

- A copy of the “Feeling, Faith, and Fact” template on page 13
- Scissors

Instructions

As I read this poem aloud, listen for reasons why it is important to know the truth, which God has given us in the Bible. This poem uses the word *fact* to mean “the truth.”

Three men were walking on a wall,
Feeling, Faith, and Fact,
When Feeling took an awful fall,
And Faith was taken back.
So close was Faith to Feeling,
He stumbled and fell too,
But Fact remained,
And pulled Faith back
And Faith brought Feeling too.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

Sometimes we may not feel like trusting God, such as when we are grieved, discouraged, or frustrated. Our faith, or confidence in Who God is or what He says, may waver, especially if we are thinking untrue thoughts about God. We cannot rely on our feelings to discern what is true. Unlike our feelings, however, God’s Word can be trusted. Fear can be replaced with

peace as we choose to confidently act on God’s unchanging Word instead of our ever-changing feelings.

Remember that Satan can *only* tempt us to doubt; he cannot stop God from keeping His promises! Satan can only torment you with fear that God will not do what He has said. But God does not lie. He keeps His promises, and He gives you a shield of faith to ward off thoughts of unbelief. Protect yourself from doubt by knowing God’s Word and keeping your focus on Him. “In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me” (Psalm 56:11).

Let’s cut out the pictures from the template and arrange them in the correct order according to the poem. What causes you to be fearful? What doubts do you have about God? What facts from God’s Word apply? If you believe these facts, what will you do, even if your feelings are not in agreement?

Next, let’s look up the following verses that describe Who God is. These verses contain facts that can strengthen your faith when you are tempted to doubt:

- **God is love.** (See 1 John 4:8, Romans 8:38–39.)
- **God is a good Father.** (See Matthew 7:11.)
- **God protects His children.** (See Psalm 121:1–8.)
- **God provides for His children.** (See Matthew 6:25–34.)
- **God listens to His children.** (See Psalm 34:15.)
- **God is always with His children.** (See Hebrews 13:5.)
- **God has good plans for His children.** (See Jeremiah 29:11.)

VARIATION:

From paper bags or socks, make puppets representing Feeling, Faith, and Fact. (You could also use stuffed animals.) Create the wall by using a couch or a blanket draped over chairs. Enjoy acting out the poem!

Explaining Salvation to a Child

Christ Our Righteousness

You will need the following items: sticky notes, pen, and a white bed sheet.

The Bible tells us about God. He is the Creator of the universe and He is holy. God loves us and created us to have fellowship with Him. (See [Revelation 4:11](#).)

Select a volunteer who would not mind standing to represent the sin of all people. Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” Sin is anything we think, say, or do that breaks God’s Law. Can you name some examples of sin? As the children answer, write their examples on sticky notes and place them onto the volunteer’s clothing (e.g., speaking unkind words, stealing, disobeying, doing good with wrong motives).

Because we have all sinned, and God is holy, we are eternally separated from Him. However, because God loves us so much, He sent His Son, Jesus, Who died on the cross to pay for our sin and Who rose again to conquer death! Now we can have fellowship with God forever

through Christ. (See [John 17:3](#).) If we accept God’s gift of salvation, Christ’s blood cleanses us from sin, and His righteousness is put upon us! (See [II Corinthians 5:21](#).)

Remove the sticky notes and wrap the white sheet around the volunteer to represent Jesus’ robe of righteousness.

Isaiah 31:10 describes what has happened this way: “My soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness. . . .” In Romans 10:9–10, we are told how we can accept this gift: “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

Are you trusting in Jesus Christ for your salvation? If so, your sins are forgiven and Christ is living in you!

Your new, inward identity is one of righteousness in God’s eyes. The more you realize that you are a new creature in Christ and walk in the Spirit, the more your outward actions will demonstrate Christ living in you. Just as the Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20, you can also say, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” God gives us eternal life—sweet constant fellowship in the Spirit with our Savior—and then His righteousness is seen in us for His glory. (See [John 15:4–10](#).)

In a Nutshell

1. God created all things ([Colossians 1:16](#)). God is holy ([Leviticus 19:2](#)). God loves us ([John 3:16](#)).
2. Our sin separates us from God ([Romans 3:23](#)).
3. God sent His Son, Jesus, to provide the way for our sins to be forgiven and for fellowship with Him to be restored ([Ephesians 1:6–7](#)). Jesus accomplished our salvation through His
4. We can do nothing to earn salvation. It is a free gift from God that we receive by faith ([Ephesians 2:8–9](#)).
5. We receive that gift of salvation by confessing with our mouth that Jesus is Lord and believing in our heart that God has raised Him from the dead ([Romans 10:9–10](#)).

crucifixion on the cross, His burial, and His glorious resurrection ([I Corinthians 15:3–4](#)).

Hymn History

“I Know Whom I Have Believed”

Sing “I Know Whom I Have Believed” and read about the faith proclaimed by the hymn writer, Daniel W. Whittle.

The Battle of Vicksburg, one of the bloodiest conflicts recorded in American history, was over. Among the many badly wounded soldiers was Union officer Major Daniel Webster Whittle. After losing his right arm in the battle, Major Whittle spent months as a prisoner of war (POW) recuperating in a hospital. The young soldier became weary of having nothing to do while recovering. Finally, looking for something to do to pass the time,



Daniel W. Whittle (1840–1901)

Major Whittle began reading the New Testament his mother had given him when he joined the Army.

As Major Whittle read the little Bible, the Holy Spirit convicted him of his sin and his need for a Savior. However, he resisted surrendering to Christ, and soon he fell asleep. A short time afterward, a hospital orderly

awakened him. The orderly explained that another POW was dying and wanted someone to come pray with him. Major Whittle protested that he could not pray with the dying patient and suggested that the orderly ask someone else. “But I thought you were

a Christian; I have seen you reading your Bible,” the orderly replied.

Major Whittle later wrote:

I dropped on my knees and held the [dying] boy’s hand in mine. In a few broken words, I confessed my sins and asked Christ to forgive me. I believed right there that He did forgive me. I then prayed and pleaded God’s promises. When I arose from my knees, . . . [the soldier] was dead. A look of peace had come over his troubled face, and I cannot but believe that God who used him to bring me to the Savior used me to lead him to trust Christ’s precious blood and find pardon.

Faith is “visualizing what God intends to do in a given situation and acting in harmony with it.” To have strong and vibrant faith in any situation, we must know *Whom* we are trusting! Major Whittle wrote the hymn “I Know Whom I Have Believed” as an expression of his faith in Christ. He noted in the hymn that while there was still much he did not understand, he chose to believe in God and His faithfulness. Faith involves not only believing with our minds but also trusting in our hearts that God lives within us when we commit our lives to Him. Apart from faith, we cannot act in harmony with God’s good and perfect will.

Major Whittle wrote other hymns. After the war, influenced by D. L. Moody’s ministry, Major Whittle became an evangelist and led many to Christ. God can also be glorified through *our* faith as we discern and act in harmony with His will.

I Know Whom I Have Believed

Daniel W. Whittle (1840–1901)

James McGranahan (1840–1907)

1. I know not why God's won-drous grace To me He hath made known,
2. I know not how this sav-ing faith To me He did im-part,
3. I know not how the Spir-it moves, Con-vinc-ing men of sin,
4. I know not when my Lord may come, At night or noon-day fair,

Nor why, un-wor-ty, Christ in love Re-deemed me for His
Nor how be-liev-ing in His Word Wrought peace with-in my
Re-veal-ing Je-sus through the Word, Cre-at-ing faith in
Nor if I'll walk the vale with Him, Or meet Him in the

own.
heart. But "I know Whom I have be-liev-ed and am per-suad-ed that He is
Him.
air.

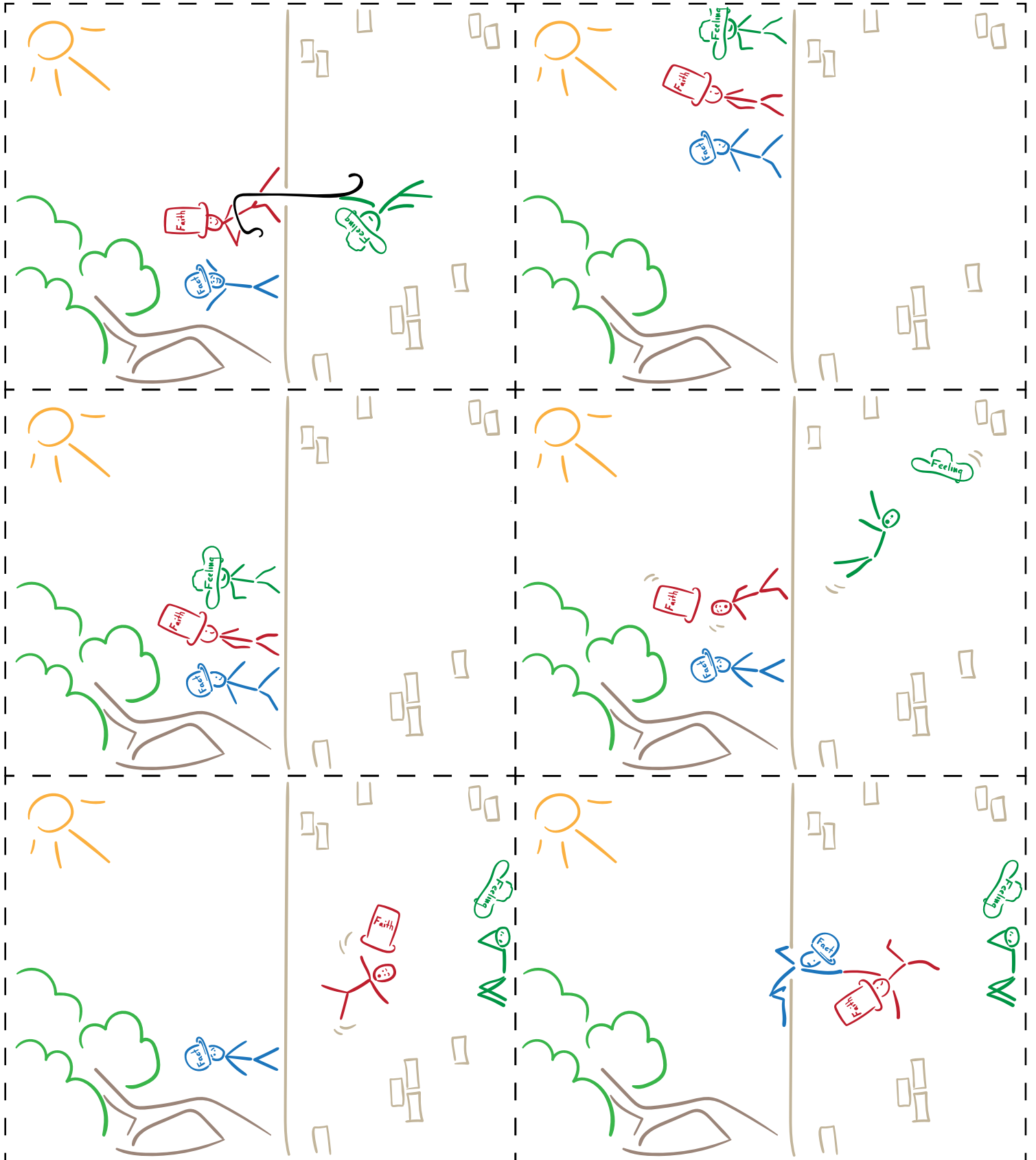
a-ble To keep that which I've com-mit-ted Un-to Him a-gainst that day."

Abraham Trusts God to Keep His Promises



“And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a[n] . . . offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of” (Genesis 22:2).

Feeling, Faith, and Fact Template



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