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Programs for Youth
Republic of Latvia



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LESSON PLAN 11 FAITHFULNESS AND NOAH, AND THE KING

PART A: LESSON METHODOLOGY

QUALITY	Faithfulness
<p>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE QUALITY</p>	<p>According to Oxford dictionary definition of faithfulness is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • faithfulness (to somebody/something) the quality of staying with or supporting a particular person, organization or belief, • the fact that somebody does not have a sexual relationship with anyone other than their wife, husband or partner, • faithfulness (to somebody/something) the quality of being true and accurate, with nothing changed. <p>Faithfulness</p> <p>Are there any words describing faithfulness? Some common synonyms of faithful may be counted as constant, loyal, resolute, staunch, and steadfast.</p> <p>An unknown author has given a good description of the value of faithfulness: <i>'I love the word faithfulness. It is like comfort food for the soul. When someone is faithful it is affirming and validates our sense of belonging and worth'</i> (Butterfly Living).</p> <p>Another unknown author expressed faithfulness as this: <i>'One day as my family and I left a basketball game, my daughter ran ahead of us in the parking lot. At that instant, a large truck began to back up not noticing my tiny 3-year-old. My</i></p>

	<p><i>faithfulness to her life took on actual meaning as I jumped behind the truck waving my arms and screaming'(Butterfly Living).</i></p> <p>Faithfulness in Youth Having browsed internet with key words: ‘faithfulness’, ‘faithfulness meaning’ and ‘faithfulness description’, actually no articles or other materials were selected by the browser. Faithfulness is one of the Christian values promoted by this project, and it is obvious that in the everyday life this quality is not that popular not only among youth generation but even among grownups. Yet, is faithfulness that unimportant in human relationships? How can we trust anyone if the person is not faithful to others? Is it easy to live not knowing who is your friend and who could stab a knife in your back? Perhaps it is necessary to promote faithfulness as a quality in our younger generations? The project team believes that this is a quality that can make local communities and our society better. It is why this quality was selected among those 13 promoted by the project MoPYL.</p> <p>Faithfulness in the Scripture Here are five characteristics of faithfulness that reflect who God is; loyal, trustworthy, steadfast in love, patient, and committed. When we begin to embrace these characteristics of faithfulness, we learn to be faithful to God, ourselves, and others because Jesus is consistently faithful to us.</p> <p>See what youth themselves according to the research done by the project MoPYL team have to say about the faithfulness below in the chapter of “Dilemma”.</p>
<p>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE LESSON</p>	<p>The lesson consists of three parts – introductory part (~ 10% of the time), main part (~ 75% of the time), and final part (~ 15% of the time). The introductory part consists of: a) links with other lessons; b) introduction. The main part consists of theoretical and practical (individual, pair, group) parts. The final part consists of a lesson summary and conclusions, feedback, questions and answers.</p>
<p>AIMS OF THE LESSON</p>	<p>1) to learn positive features of faithfulness, such as patience, love and kindness; 2) to put into practice the positive features of faithfulness through discussions – Noah’s and the King’s stories.</p>



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<p>NON FORMAL EDUCATION METHODS OF THE LESSON</p>	<p>1) theoretical training, 2) discussions, modelling faithfulness and the opposite in the debates, reflective thinking, learning to learn, observing, feedback, questions and answers, etc.</p>
<p>AGE GROUP</p>	<p>13-15 years old</p>
<p>EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE LESSON</p>	<p>1) positive features of faithfulness, such as patience, love and kindness learned and perceived; 2) positive features of faithfulness through the story of the lesson put into practice by discussions.</p>
<p>PART B: LESSON DESCRIPTION</p>	
<p>SLOGAN</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Health is the greatest gift, contentment the greatest wealth, faithfulness the best relationship.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Unknown</i></p>
<p>DILEMMA</p>	<p>Project qualities promoted by this lesson plan along with the faithfulness, are also kindness, love and patience shown by Noah constructing the ark for a long period of time (patience) when others around were celebrating life and living at ease. Noah was doing that because it was incumbent upon him, thus showing faithfulness in his actions. Yet, what can we mention about the King's actions regarding the qualities promoted by this lesson? Actually the King does not promote the values of this plan directly. Rather indirectly. The most important is expressed within the moral of the story.</p> <p>Within the Research Report of the project MoPYL, faithfulness regarding Christian values and youth was mentioned in</p>

	<p>the Latvian Focus group by the LV01 participant: <i>‘Very commendable is that they consider joy, love and faithfulness as highly important’</i> (page 3 of the Results from the Focus Groups).</p> <p>Faithfulness was also mentioned in conclusion part of the Focus groups within the highlighted values saying that a special attention should be paid to such qualities as joy, love, faithfulness as categories important for the young people and to responsibility as a quality to be developed (page 6 of the Results from the Focus Groups).</p> <p>The results of the MoPYL Research Report helped the project consortium to decide upon the amount of values of faithfulness to be promoted by the project plans.</p> <p>See the full project MoPYL Research Report in the project’s homepage www.mopyl.eu.</p>		
<p>MATERIALS NECESSARY FOR THE LESSON</p>	<p>Projector, screen, computer, access to Wi-Fi or mobile internet</p>		
<p>LESSON LENGTH</p>	<p>1 learning hour, i.e. 45 minutes</p>		
<p><u>INTRODUCTORY PART</u></p>	<p>Anticipatory set</p>	<p>3 minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • greeting, blessing and engaging students • connection with prior learning – reflections, feedback, discussions • explanation of the current lesson’s material • explanation of tasks for the students • connection to the future learning
	<p>Introduction of the new material</p>	<p>2 minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • direct instructions of the content • modelling of new skills – faithfulness • checking of students’ understanding



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<p><u>MAIN PART</u></p>	<p>Guided practice: youth leaders are given two options for this part: part A is a Christian lesson; part B is a secular lesson. Both lessons stand on equal qualities.</p>	<p>28 minutes</p>	<p>TITLE A FAITHFULNESS AND NOAH</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>or</u></p> <p>TITLE B FAITHFULNESS AND THE KING</p>
	<p><u>PART A</u></p> <p>Noah’s story, either told by the teacher itself following the Book of Genesis of the Scripture. Or displayed in a Superbook episode 9 of season 2 HERE (episode 209) once you are logged in (registration is mandatory to be able to watch the Superbook episodes). Length of the episode – 24 minutes.</p> <p>Free online registration to watch Superbook episodes throughout all seasons HERE.</p>		
<p>GROUP PRACTICE PART A</p>	<p>10 minutes</p> <p>At first, the teacher asks if there are any questions related to the story of Noah. The teacher answers and explains all related issues. Prior to giving answers, the teacher encourages other learners to reply.</p> <p>The teacher asks if the class can name a similar person of our time? Can they link the Noah’s actions to any known person, or maybe not widely known – perhaps, somebody can name their parents, friends, relatives, etc., having shown such faithfulness of an assigned task?</p> <p>If no one can mention anyone, the teacher mentions that one such person perhaps could be Volodimir Zelenski, the current president of Ukraine (on the 9th May, 2022). Why him? We purpose to look at the situation of Ukraine from the perspective of his taking care of his country and nation. This shows Mr Zelenski’s firm character and faithfulness. The</p>		



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	<p>situation in Ukraine is still going on and changing. The future teachers using this lesson plan are asked to revise this suggestion and update accordingly.</p> <p>Questions to be discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the main message of Noah's ark? – God rewarded Noah for his righteousness and obedience, saving him and his seven family members from destruction. The story of the flood also shows that every sin we commit grieves God, and His justice demanded punishment for that sin under the Old Testament. 2. What can we learn from Noah? – The story of Noah and the flood is a story of judgment and salvation, of obedience and disobedience. In a time of great wickedness, Noah stood out for his righteous life. Noah may have been ridiculed for building a huge boat when there was no visible flood on earth, but he didn't worry about what other people thought. He simply responded to God's commands in faithfulness and with a willing heart and hands. Therefore, the lesson we can learn from Noah is that faithfulness, obedience and righteous life forever pays. 3. Why was God angry with people on the earth at Noah's days? – Because people were evil and were hurting one another. 4. Why God chose specifically Noah to build the ark? – Because Noah was the only good man on the face of the earth at that time. 5. What God told Noah to do? – God told Noah to build a big ark and to take with him and his family two of every kind of animal and bird. 6. Who helped Noah to build the ark? – His three sons. 7. How many days it rained? – 40 8. What did Noah do after stepping on the earth again? – Noah built an altar to thank God.
<p>SITUATION</p>	<p><u>Part B</u></p> <p>King Kris loved horses and had a collection of some of the best breed of horses in his stable. Once a horse trader from Arabia came to the court of the King Kris and told him that he had some very good breed of Arabian horses for sale. He</p>

	<p>invited the King to see the horse that he had brought with him and told him that if he liked it, he would send for the other horses too.</p> <p>The King loved the horse and told him that he would like all his horses. The King paid him 5000 gold coins as an advance, and the trader promised that he would return with the other horses in 2 days before leaving.</p> <p>Two days passed by, then two weeks and still, the trader did not return. The King got more and more anxious. One evening, to relax his mind, he went to take a stroll in the garden. There he saw Tenali Raman writing down something on a paper. The King went up to him and asked what he was writing. He did not get an answer. The King further quizzed him. Tenali then looked up and told the King that he was writing down the names of the biggest fools of the Vijayanagar Kingdom.</p> <p>The King took the paper from him and saw his name written at the top. He was furious with Tenali and asked for an explanation. To that Tenali replied that any man who gives away 5000 gold coins to a total stranger is a fool. The King then asked Tenali what if he returned with the horses; to which Tenali said then, in that case, that man would be a fool. He would then write down the trader's name instead of the king's (<i>Moral Stories</i>).</p>
<p>MORAL</p>	<p><i>Do not believe in strangers blindly. The same goes when you do your business with anyone.</i></p>
<p>GROUP PRACTICE PART B</p>	<p>10 minutes</p> <p>Questions to be discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Have you ever trusted unknown people?</i> 2. <i>What would you suggest now, after the story of the King Kris, to the King if someone is trying to fool someone in a similar way?</i> 3. <i>What do you think – where helping ends and using of others start?</i>



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<u>FINAL PART</u>	12 minutes	Brief summarizing of the lesson, discussion of the lessons learned, debates if the learners raise unclear, discussable issues. Feedback of learners for the best practices to be applied for future.
REFERENCES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Butterfly Living. 2021. <i>What Does the Bible say About Faithfulness?</i> Accessed: 09.05.2022. https://butterflyliving.org/what-does-the-bible-say-about-faithfulness/. 2. English standard Version Bible. <i>Bible</i>. Accessed: 09.05.2022. https://www.biblestudytools.com/esv/. 3. Erasmus+ Project. 2022. <i>Mobile Program for Youth Learners. MoPYL Research Report</i>. Available at: www.mopyl.eu. 4. Moral Stories. <i>Tenali Rama and the Trader</i>. Accessed: 09.05.2022. https://www.moralstories.org/tenali-rama-and-the-trader/. 5. Oxford Learner's Dictionaries. <i>Faithfulness</i>. Accessed: 09.05.2022. https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/faithfulness. 6. Superbook. Episode 209: <i>Noah and the Ark</i>. Accessed: 09.05.2022. https://us-en.superbook.cbn.com/episode_player?v=4515327556001. 	