

Faith That Leaves Evidence



Week 1 — The Bible Is Not a “Vibe”: It’s a True Story

Core idea: Christianity is rooted in history, not feelings or myths(fables).

Anchor Scripture: Genesis 1:1, Luke 1:1–4, 1 Corinthians 15:3–8

Big Truth: The Bible claims to be a record of real events involving real people in real places. If it’s wrong historically, Christianity collapses. If it’s right, it demands a response.

Teaching Flow:

- **Start with a simple question:** *“What’s the oldest thing you trust as true?” (family stories, textbooks, history class)*
- Explain that the Bible isn’t one book—it’s a library written over ~1,500 years by dozens of authors, spanning creation to the early church.
- Emphasize that large portions read like court documents, letters, genealogies, and eyewitness accounts.
- **Introduce this idea gently but clearly:** *Christianity does not ask people to “turn their brain off.” It asks them to remember.*

Interactive Element:

- **Timeline exercise:** Creation → Abraham → Exodus → Kings → Exile → Jesus → Church **(Have students place major events in order. The goal isn’t perfection—it’s seeing continuity.)**

Discussion Prompts:

- Why would God choose to reveal Himself through history instead of just visions?
- What does it mean if God works inside time instead of outside it?

Take-Home Thought: *If God entered history, history matters.*

**(End Group with asking if there are any prayer requests/Praise reports)*

**(Close in prayer no later than 8pm)*

Week 2 — Faith That Leaves Evidence

Core idea: Faith isn't invisible—it shapes behavior, priorities, and choices.

Anchor Scripture: James 2:17, Matthew 7:16–20

Big Truth: Belief always produces evidence. The question isn't if there's evidence—but what kind.

Teaching Flow:

- **Introduce the courtroom question:** *"If following Jesus were illegal, would there be enough evidence to charge you?"*
- **Clarify immediately:** *This is not about perfection or being loud—it's about direction.*
- Explain that faith shows up in:
 - How you treat people when no one is watching
 - What you refuse to do when it costs you
 - What you prioritize with time, words, and loyalty
- **Emphasize grace:** *Evidence is not how we earn salvation; it's how salvation shows itself.*

Interactive Element:

- **"Evidence Board"** - Split students into groups. Ask them to list what evidence would and would not count:
 - Would count: forgiveness, integrity, courage, repentance
 - Would not count: church attendance alone, Christian merch, social media bios

Discussion Prompts:

- What's the difference between private faith and hidden faith?
- Why do you think Jesus cared so much about fruit?

Take-Home Thought: *Faith that never shows up may never have shown up at all.*

**(End Group with asking if there are any prayer requests/Praise reports)*

**(Close in prayer no later than 8pm)*

Week 3 — Why Is Christianity So Often Illegal?

Core idea: Christianity isn't banned because it's weak—it's resisted because it challenges power.

Anchor Scripture: John 15:18–20, Acts 4:18–20

Big Truth: Christianity collides with cultures because it claims Jesus is Lord—not governments, trends, or individuals.

Teaching Flow:

- **Present the surprising fact plainly:** *Christianity is the largest religion in the world, yet one of the most restricted or persecuted globally.*
- **Explain why:**
 - Christianity limits absolute personal autonomy
 - Christianity challenges unjust authority
 - Christianity claims exclusive truth in a pluralistic world
- **Make this clear for teens:** Persecution doesn't always look like prison—it can look like ridicule, pressure, or silence.

Interactive Element:

- **Case studies (age-appropriate):** Discuss scenarios where following Jesus would cost social approval, popularity, or comfort.
- Ask students to identify where pressure shows up in their own lives **(school, sports, online).**

Discussion Prompts:

- Why would a loving message still provoke hostility?
- What makes Jesus threatening to systems of power?

Take-Home Thought: *The gospel comforts the broken and confronts the proud—both at the same time.*

**(End Group with asking if there are any prayer requests/Praise reports)*

**(Close in prayer no later than 8pm)*

Week 4 — Courage That Holds Under Pressure

Core idea: Christianity survives because ordinary people live it boldly.

Anchor Scripture: Matthew 10:32–33, Hebrews 12:1–3

Big Truth: You don't need to be loud to be faithful—but you do need to be loyal.

Teaching Flow:

- **Revisit the opening courtroom question from Week 2—but reframe it:** *"If following Jesus cost you something real, would you still follow Him?"*
- Emphasize that courage isn't recklessness; it's faithfulness under pressure.
- Show how the early church grew not through power, but through witness.

Interactive Element:

- **Personal reflection (written, not spoken):** *Ask students to answer privately:*

- Where is my faith most tested?
- What would courage look like for me this year?
- Optional prayer moment focused on strength and faithfulness, not fear.

Closing Charge:

- Christianity doesn't spread because it's convenient.
- It spreads because it's true—and truth leaves a trail.

Take-Home Thought: *History remembers people who refused to pretend their faith didn't matter.*

**(End Group with asking if there are any prayer requests/Praise reports)*

**(Close in prayer no later than 8pm)*

Final Notes

- This series works because it respects their intelligence.
- It avoids emotional manipulation and leans into clarity, identity, and conviction.
- Teens don't need fear—they need purpose.
- The through-line is simple: **God entered history → faith shows up → truth creates tension → courage carries it forward.**