

GOD'S HONOR ROLL

*A study of faith in the Book of Hebrews
using a multiple-intelligences approach*

The Multiple Intelligences Theory can provide some creative approaches for teaching every school subject. However, educators may feel puzzled about how to use the Multiple Intelligences Theory in religion classes, since MI literature deals mainly with secular subjects. So here are some ideas for using MI approaches in a secondary-level Bible class.

This interactive lesson study was developed on the premise that people have a profile of intelligences, and that, through the use of these intelligences, we understand Scripture and God. Traditionally, we have assumed that words and music are the only ways to understand and worship the Creator. However, this narrow approach is not substantiated in the Bible. Even a cursory reading of the Scriptures shows that humans have worshiped and understood God in a variety of ways. The body movements of David; the sound of stringed and wind instruments; the solitary prayer of the publican; the decor and activities of the tabernacle service; the still, small voice of God; the group readings of Scripture pas-

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sages in the synagogue; the singing of praises; foot washing, eating, and drinking at the communion service table; the visual aids of Daniel and Revelation are just a few of the ways humanity has understood spiritual concepts and expressed appreciation to God. It is in this tradition that the following lesson has been structured.

Using the Multiple Intelligences Theory as the basis for Bible teaching actu-

BY MELVIN CAMPBELL

ally brings together a number of strategies that good Bible teachers have been using through the years. Although the sample lesson plan deals with biblical literature, teachers will find it easy to apply to other types of literature. The process can be easily adapted for elementary and middle school classrooms.

This Bible lesson has been used with remarkable success on the secondary level. For the original lesson arrangement, see the sample page. (In this article, the activities have been listed in italics under the texts that they refer to in order to save space.) Students can work alone or in groups. The activities reflect the Multiple Intelligences concepts, encouraging students to learn the ideas and concepts of faith through the use of their various intelligences. Materials needed for student use include scissors, blocks, paper, crayons, pencils, paper clips, etc. The teacher can interrupt periodically to answer questions or to have students discuss their work. While this is a student-centered lesson, the teacher certainly can—and should—interject ideas at appropriate teachable moments. A review can follow the lesson. Assessment can use the traditional paper-and-pencil test and/or a portfolio approach.

RESOURCES

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Faith's Honor Roll

(Hebrews 10:35-37; 11:1-40; 12:1, 2)

"So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. For in just a very little while, 'He who is coming will come and will not be late.'"

Hum and/or select a hymn that best describes the promises of God to you...

List words that could be used instead of confidence...

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for."

List words that could be used instead of faith...

Sketch an eye...

"By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."

With your hands, indicate the motions that God may have used while speaking the world into existence...

*In a group of two to five, go through the rest of the text to the point where it says "**STOP**" and highlight each action*

Scripture texts are taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*. Copyright © 1973, 1978, International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.

verb of faith.

"By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead."

What are some of the words Abel still speaks?

"By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death; he could not be found, because God had taken him away. For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone

who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."

Show others at your table a look of commendation to one who has pleased you...

Close your eyes, stretch your arms out, make a fist with your thumbs pointing inward, then bring your arms together so that your thumbs will touch...

"By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

"By faith Abraham, when called to go

to a place he would later receive as his possession, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.”

As a group, select a song of praise and sing it at your table...

Have someone go outside to find a stone. Explain how this stone is like the foundation in the city of God...OR, From the material on the table, construct a foundation for a city. Explain why you laid this kind of foundation...

“By faith Abraham, even though he was past age—and Sarah herself was barren—was enabled to become a father because he considered him faithful who had made the promise. And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand of the seashore.”

Fill a circle with the color of “barren”...

“All these people were still living by

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faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance.”

Without using words, welcome some-

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one from a distance...

“And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.”

Note the following quotation from The Great Controversy, p. 675:

“There are ever-flowing streams, clear as crystal, and beside them waving trees cast their shadows upon the paths prepared for the ransomed of the Lord. There the wide-spreading plains swell into hills of beauty, and the mountains of God rear their lofty summits. On those peaceful plains, beside those living streams, God’s people, so long pilgrims and wanderers, shall find a home.”

List or show how God’s people today are treated as pilgrims and wanderers.

Recently, the State of California placed on the ballot Proposition 187. This initiative would have denied illegal immigrants the services that legal residents enjoy, e.g., free public education, welfare benefits, and certain medical help. (The initiative passed but was overturned by the courts.)

Write a Proposition 187 that would deny rights and privileges to Adventists in the country of your choice. Be specific.

“By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, ‘Through Isaac shall your promised offspring come.’ Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead, and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.”

Either sketch or, using the material on the table, construct an altar...

Write a short prayer that Isaac may have offered at this time: “Oh, Lord...”

“By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.

“By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph’s sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.

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Moses (M) recounting his rejection of the adoption:

M:

PD:

M:

PD:

M:

PD:

M:

“By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king’s anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible.

Illustrate how you can see something that is invisible...

“By faith he kept the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel.”

From the material on the table, re-enact this Passover scene...

“By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as on dry land; but when the Egyptians tried to do so, they were drowned.

“By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.

“By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.”

Draw a representation of the prostitute Rahab...

Draw a representation of the welcoming Rahab...

“And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak,

Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again.”

Complete this syllogism:

Major Premise: All of God’s people have faith.

Minor Premise:

Conclusion:

STOP highlighting the action verbs of faith.

“Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.”

List 10 verbs in the preceding paragraph that result from faith.

“These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.”

Sketch a perfect circle...

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

List or draw a sketch of some of the witnesses surrounding us...

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“By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones.”

Illustrate with your fingers how the Israelites left Egypt during the exodus...

“By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king’s edict.

“By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh’s daughter. He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time. He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.”

Write a dialogue between Pharaoh’s daughter (PD) and her adopted son