

STRETCHING MY FAITH

SCRIPTURE:

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

MATERIALS LIST:

(1) extension cord

SONG: "Living By Faith"

LESSON:

Almost everyone has an extension cord nearby because of how useful they are to stretch the power that comes from an electrical outlet to other places far away from it. There is another power source that we can tap into that can be stretched all the way around the world. This is power that only comes from God.

One of the most exciting times of my life was when I got to leave home and go to college. I was on my own. I could make my own decisions. You would think all of that freedom and independence would be exciting, but it turned out to be a little bit frightening. All of a sudden I wished I had listened more closely to the advice my parents had given me throughout the years I lived at home. I faced many questions to which I didn't have the answers. There were many situations I faced that I wasn't sure what the best decision would be. I ran into many problems that I didn't know the solutions. Oh man, this being on your own thing was more of a challenge than I had ever imagined. Some of the biggest tests of my life were coming.

I was attending a "Christian" college, but I learned very quickly that not everyone there believed in all of the things I was taught when I was growing up. I couldn't believe how many people had different opinions about the church, worship, creation, and even God Himself. As I began to hear more and more strange ideas, I began to realize that the spiritual training I received from my mom and dad was becoming very important in my life. I was learning how important it was for me to have developed my own faith in God and in His word when I was younger. I knew what I believed and why I believed it because of the time I had spent studying the Bible. My faith was the same as my parents, because it came from the same source. We had all plugged our minds and our hearts into the Word of God and were fed by the power that only comes from Him. It didn't matter that I was 358 miles away from home, my faith extended far beyond the walls of the house I grew up in.

Have you ever thought, "I believe in God because my parents do?" Have you ever said, "I go to church every Sunday because my parents make me?" If so, then you have not yet developed your own faith. It is time to plug yourself into God's word and know for yourself what His will is for your life. No matter how good or faithful your parents or grandparents are, they cannot get you into heaven. You have to make the decision to plug yourself into God's word so that when it is time, you are able to stretch out your own spiritual extension cord and remain connected to the truth no matter how far away you may go.

PRAYER: Everyone in our family will develop and grow our own personal faith in God.

MAIN MESSAGE:

Seeing the faith of other Christians, like parents and grandparents, is a valuable way to learn what it means to live every day for God. But we are not always around these other Christian examples, so we have to develop a faith of our own that stretches beyond our home.