

FAITH

Faith is a word that leads someone to believe in something or someone. Many people have different opinions of what faith really means or what drives them. People have a natural tendency to expose their own curiosity in the spiritual realm, whether it be supernatural, material, demonic, and in this context, Christianity. Here are a few questions for you and your mentee to review in discussing faith.

- How do you act when you believe in something?
- What makes you believe what you cannot see?
- What drives your curiosity when you believe?
- What is your understanding of faith?
- Can a young child have faith?
- When do you realize you have faith?

Mentor

Take this time with your mentee in discussion your own faith. Explain how you started believing, what lead you, how were you supported, what kept you going, why you chose this faith, who helped you, where did you first realize you had faith, and what are your challenges today.

Biblical Foundation

- Matthew 15:28, Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed from that very hour. (TNIV)
- Mark 11:22, “Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. (TNIV)
- 2 Corinthians 5:7, We live by faith, not by sight. (TNIV)

Cultural Values

Like many Alaska native cultures, the Cup'ig people of believed in a higher being called Ellam Cua (person of the environment, a super natural being). Parents would advise their children to respect the environment, because Ellam Cua is watching. Although the people did not hear about the Christian God until the arrival of the missionaries, they worshipped Ellam Cua by giving thanks through traditional dancing festivals. Upon asking a Cup'ig elder, who Ellam Cua is, he mentioned Ellam Cua is the Christian God. The Yup'ik people in the villages on Nelson Island call him Ellam Yua. The native people called God in their own native language. They did not see God, but they had faith.

Potential Activities

There is a good chance your mentee is already involved in church. A possible activity might be to experience other denominational worship services. Being exposed to other Christians is important to reveal that God is at work in many other lives besides the Covenant denomination. Another activity might be taking the mentee to a traditional dancing activity and asking the mentee to talk with the participants on their understanding of faith, in their own traditional context.