

RE

To explore faith and its expression through beliefs, practices and leaders.



Your task is to research and create a biography of the life of someone who has shown great faith in their religion or beliefs. Consider their actions throughout their life which demonstrated their faith and how they shared their faith with others.

Ideas of people that you could research:

Mahatma Ghandi

Dalai Lama

Muhammad

Abraham

Mother Theresa

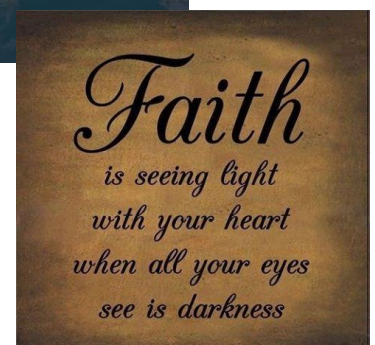
Brother Andrew

Nelson Mandela

Martin Luther King

Your biography could be written in paragraphs or you may wish to complete a storyboard (provided) so that you can illustrate their life as well as explain how these actions showed faith.

If you fancy a challenge, choose two different people who practise different religions and explain the similarities in their lives which show faith.



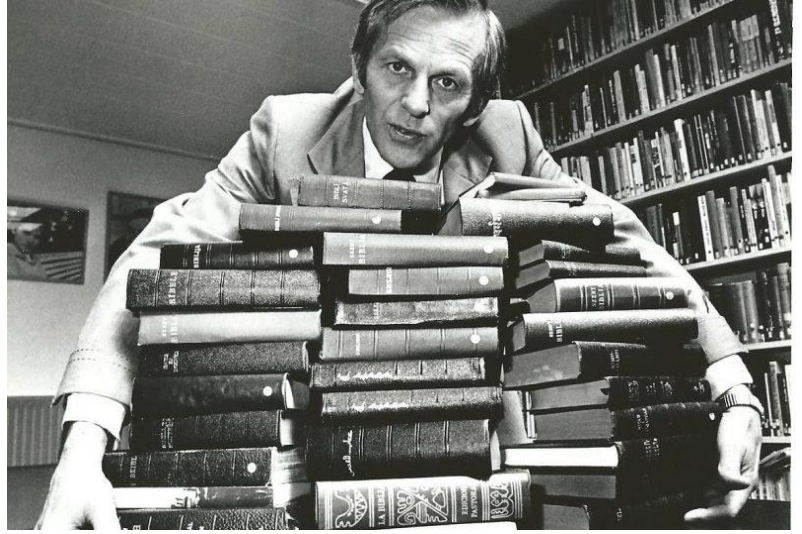
Examples of Faith

Brother Andrew (Christianity)

One of the most loved Brother Andrew stories recounts a risky incident from early in his ministry. On this occasion, Brother Andrew approached the Romanian border in his car—which was packed with illegal Bibles.

He could only hope the border guards were moving swiftly and not paying much attention, which might allow him to pass through undetected.

But just as he was hoping this, Brother Andrew saw the guards stop the car at the front of the line. He watched, in anticipation, as the vehicle's owners were forced to take out all of the car's contents and spread them on the ground for inspection.



Each car that followed received the same treatment, with the fourth car's inspection lasting the longest. The guard took a full hour to sift through it, including removing hubcaps, taking the engine apart, and even removing the seats.

“Dear Lord,” Brother Andrew remembers praying, “What am I going to do?”

As he prayed, a bold idea came to Brother Andrew. “I know that no amount of cleverness on my part can get me through this border search. Dare I ask for a miracle? Let me take some of the Bibles out and leave them in the open where they will be seen.”

Putting the Bibles out in the open would truly be depending on God, rather than his own intelligence, he thought. So when the guards ushered Andrew forward, he did just this. “I handed him my papers and started to get out. But his knee was against the door, holding it closed.”

And then, the almost unbelievable happened.

The guard looked at Brother Andrew's passport and abruptly waved him on. “Surely thirty seconds had not passed,” he remembers.

Brother Andrew started the engine and began pulling away, all the while wondering if he was supposed to pull over so the car could be taken apart and examined. “I coasted forward, my foot poised above the brake. Nothing happened. I looked out the rear mirror. The guard was waving the next car to a stop, indicating to the driver that he had to get out.”

Brother Andrew believed that God had cleared the way for Brother Andrew to smuggle the Bible to Christians who had no access to God's Word.

Abraham (Judaism)

Abraham's faith in God was tested many times throughout his life.

Abraham was already an old man when God brought him outside and said to Him, *"Look now toward the heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them. So shall your descendants be."* Genesis 15:5.

Abraham believed God's promise, even though naturally speaking, it was impossible. Abraham and his wife Sarah were long past child-bearing years and they had no children.

Abraham's faith in God was tested with this promise, to see if he would take God at His word, no matter what his reasoning told him. Abraham did not waver in his faith, and God kept his promise (Romans 4:20). Sarah gave birth to a baby boy, and they named their son Isaac, as God instructed them.

But now Abraham was tested a second time, and this was a test unlike any other. Years later, when Isaac was a boy, God came again to speak with Abraham.

"Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." Genesis 22:2.

What was Abraham supposed to think about this? None of it made sense. God seemed to be contradicting Himself.

But Abraham's faith in God did not waver. In spite of the seemingly utter impossibility of the situation, he got up in the morning, packed his donkey, split the wood required for the offering, and started the three-day journey up the mountains with Isaac. (Genesis 22) To him, it didn't matter what the situation looked like, humanly speaking. He acted with boldness and valour because God had said it. He believed beyond a shadow of a doubt that God would keep His promise – even if that meant He had to raise Isaac back up from the dead. (Hebrews 11:17-19)

God did keep His promise. At the last second, he stopped Abraham from carrying out his sacrifice, and Isaac was spared, going on to become the father of the nation of Israel.

