

Sunday between October 2 and 8 – year C

Preparation

Read [Luke 17:5-10](#). Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/c/27-c/A-27-c.html>

<http://www.textweek.com/yearc/properc22.htm>

<http://www.msscrafter.com/newtestament/mustard.htm>

http://www.sermons4kids.com/mustard_seed_faith.htm

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pen18les.htm>

http://www.episcopalchurch.org/109452_115797_ENG_HTM.htm – scroll down to find the one for today

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-cwvx.htm#p27> – word puzzles

<http://www.ebibleteacher.com/children/lessons/mustard.htm>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Some small objects – a needle, a plant seed (if you can find one), small coin, button, and anything else that you can think of to use

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you.

With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth.

Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

Loving God, creator of us all, be with us today.

Loving Jesus, friend of us all, show us the way.

Loving Spirit, helper of us all, stir us with love everyday. Amen.

Blow out the candle. Ask the children to name the smallest thing they have ever seen. (*Wait for their responses.*) Now lay out the objects that you have brought and ask them what the smallest object is laying on the table. (*Wait for their responses.*) Now ask them if they think faith in Jesus is a big or a small thing. (*Wait for their responses.*) Explain to the children that in today's story Jesus' friends ask him to give them more faith and he gives them a surprising answer.

Story Time

Instructions

- Get settled together in a comfortable way to hear and tell today’s story.
Teach the children the following chant to be repeated through the story:

**Give us faith, give us faith.
We need Jesus to give us faith.**

Jesus was spending time with his friends. He was teaching them about how to live in God’s way. One day his closest friends, his disciples, had a question for Jesus.

**Give us faith, give us faith.
We need Jesus to give us faith.**

They said to him, “Jesus increase our faith. We want more faith in God. We want more faith in what we are doing together. Jesus increase our faith.”

**Give us faith, give us faith.
We need Jesus to give us faith.**

Now Jesus didn’t answer his friends by saying, “Here you go, more faith”. Jesus did a more interesting thing. He told them a story. He told them a parable about faith. Here is the parable.

Jesus said, “If you had the faith of a mustard seed (explain to the children that a mustard seed is quite small) you would be able to ask a tree to move from one place to another and the tree would obey you.”

**Give us faith, give us faith.
We need Jesus to give us faith.**

Jesus continued, “Suppose you owned some property and had a servant who took care of your land and animals for you. Now when the servant was done his outside work for the day, would you ask him to sit down and have dinner with you? No! You would order him to put on an apron and prepare your evening meal before he sat down for his dinner. It is the same thing for those who follow in God’s way. When you have done what has been asked of you, you ask is there anything more that you can do!”

**Give us faith, give us faith.
We need Jesus to give us faith.**

Response

Project Idea 1: Seed Cards

This response will take an act of faith on the part of the children, for they will not be able to plant and see it grow until spring comes again.

Materials needed

- card stock
- white glue and scissors
- pencils
- packets of flower seeds
- small bowls

Instructions

Cut the card stock in half. Print the word “**Faith**” up on the newsprint. Cut open the flower seed packets and pour them into the small bowls – don’t worry if they seeds mix up with each other, it will be better if they do so. Give each child a half piece of card stock and a pencil.

Point out the word ‘Faith’ on the newsprint. Ask the children to print the word on the card stock in as big a letters (like balloon letters) that they can make. When they are done, have them spread glue onto one letter and then spread flower seeds on the glue. Continue with each letter until they are all covered with glue and seeds. Have the children shake off the excess seeds into a small bowl. Encourage the children to share the cards with their families and safely put them away until they can be planted in the spring and they can see the seeds of faith sprout.

Project Idea 2: Hands of Faith Wreath

This response is one that the children can take home and get them to think about their hands as things of faith.

Materials needed

- construction paper
- scissors and glue
- markers
- yarn and ribbons
- strong tape

Instructions

Give each child at least three different colours of construction paper. Help them to trace each of their hands on the construction paper, as many as they can. Have them cut out the hands as carefully as they can. Now put all the hands into the middle of the table and have each child get 7 or 8 hands and then have them form circle of the hands to form a wreath. Help them to glue them together. Have the children decorate their wreaths with the ribbon and yarn. Cut pieces of yarn that are long to make a loop with across the back of the wreath and tape them on with the strong tape. Suggest to the children that they hang up their wreaths at home and remember how our hands are to be hands of faith and work for Jesus in the world.

Project Idea 3: Faith Mosaic Plaques

These plaques will be a good starting point with the families of the children to get them thinking about faith and what it means for them.

Materials needed

- card stock
- tissue paper
- fine line markers
- glitter and glue sticks

Instructions

Give each child a piece of card stock. Print the word “**Faith**” up on the newsprint. Point it out to the children. Have them print the word with bubble like letters on to the card stock with a fine line marker. Have them choose one colour of tissue paper for the letters (or a single colour for each letter) and get them to tear up the tissue paper into small pieces and then glue them just into the inside of the letters of the word. When they are done, invite the children to tear up other colours (other than the ones used for the word) and glue them on around the letters. Explain that all through our history as a people of faith we have used mosaics to show off what we stand for. Invite the children to think about where they are going to put their plaques when they get them home.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

Thank you God for loving care;
Thank you Jesus for loving choices;
Thank you Spirit for loving ways. Amen.