

A Seed of Faith – School age

Luke 17:5-10

October 2, 2022

Opening Arrival Activity and prayer

Tape a 6-foot sheet of mural paper (or 4 large sheets of paper) on the wall. Divide it into four columns with the headings:

1. *“Wish I could do.”*
2. *“Learning to do.”*
3. *“Can do.”*
4. *Leave the fourth column blank*

As the kids arrive, encourage them to draw or write below each header a skill, talent, or responsibility that they wish they could do, are learning to do, or can do. Encourage them to list as many things as they can think of.

Say: Wow! Check out all the things you all can do! (*Go through the list and point out how some are similar and some are different*). Not everyone can do everything listed in the Can-Do column. We all have different things we're good at.

(Now look at the wish and learning columns. Read through each item and have kids raise their hands if it's something they can related to.) In today's story, Jesus' apostles, his closest followers, put something on their wish list. Let's look up Luke 17:5. Where is the book of Luke? (*New Testament*). It is a Gospel. The word Gospel means “good news.” (*Have a volunteer read the verse*). **Ask:** Who said this? (*The apostles*) Who did the apostles say it to? (*The Lord, Jesus*) And remind me again what they said. (*Increase our faith*)

Say: It's good to grow and learn and get better at things. I added one more column to help us remember where all these gifts come from. Just like the apostles, we want God to give us what we want. The apostles wanted more faith. In today's story we'll see that God gives us all the faith we need.

Prayer:

Say: Find something in this room and pick it up. It could be big and heavy like a chair or it could be small like a pencil. It may even take more than one of you to lift it. God gives us everything around us. God loves all of us and gives us each all the faith we need. Let's pray.

Dear God; All good things come from you. A little or a lot, we got what we got. Thank you for the gift of faith. Amen.

Open the Bible

– A Seed of Faith Story

Say: Today I have something to show you, but it's really, really small! I'll hold it in my hand and walk around to show everybody. (*Go around and show everybody a small handful of the flower seeds*). What do you think we can do with these seeds? (*Grow plants*)

These seeds are pretty amazing. Even though they're tiny, if we take care of them, they'll grow into something big and beautiful. How can we get them to grow? (*Give them water and sunlight*). You know what? This sounds kind of like the Bible story you'll hear today that teaches about how our faith can grow. No matter how small our faith is, God can use it. God will use whatever faith we have and do awesome things with it! All we have to do is remember the power of the Holy Spirit and say "yes" to God.

Say: Today we'll focus on the first two verses of the Bible story. (*Ask a volunteer to read Luke 17:5-6*). Jesus may have chosen the example of a mustard seed because he knew that his followers were aware of how small it was. Let's use some language that people today would be able to understand. Think of something that is really small, like the mustard seed in the story. (*Wait for responses*). Then think of something that could be as big as a mulberry tree. (*Wait for responses*). Jesus talked about this tree being uprooted and planted in the sea. What would be something amazing your things would do? (*Kids can team up if they want to think of these ideas together*).

Ask:

- How has God used your faith for great things?
- Talk about a time when have you said "yes" to God working through you.
- What are your favorite types of seeds to plant?

Activate Faith – Faith Catchers Craft

Supplies: paper plate, yarn or embroidery floss, hole punch, beads, ribbons or other light weight decorations.

Faith is all that is needed to be Jesus' disciple. Have the group make faith catchers to hang over their beds. It will be a reminder of how faith comes from God.

1. Cut out the middle of the paper plate so that you have about 2 inches of the rim of the plate left.
2. Punch holes ½-1 inch apart around the rim.
3. Tie a piece of yarn about 2 arm lengths long to one of the holes. Weave it to a hold across the rim. Keep weaving, going back and forth in no particular pattern. As you weave, slip a bead onto the yarn from time to time. When you have used up the yarn, tie it to a hole or a secured piece of the yarn.

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4. Punch three holes at the bottom of your faith catcher. Tie a piece of yarn or ribbon about 6 inches long to each hole. Thread 2-3 beads on each piece of yarn or ribbon and tie.
5. Punch a hole at the top of your faith catcher. Tie a piece of yarn or ribbon through it. Make a loop for a hanger.

As kids are working, **ask** them questions:

1. How big was the faith Jesus talked about? (A mustard seed)
2. What are other things that size? (Give kids time to remember some of their examples).
3. What did Jesus say that faith could do? (Tell a huge mulberry tree to uproot and be planted in the sea)
4. What is something else that size? (Give kids time to remember their examples)
5. And what was Jesus teaching his close followers, the apostles, in this story? (God gives us all the faith we need)

If there is more time (or an alternate activity is needed):

From Tree to Sea Puzzle

Say: At the beginning of our story today, Jesus said that with faith the size of a mustard seed you could move a tree to the sea.

Read through the directions in the leaflet. Encourage kids to review the Bible story if they're stuck on a clue. As kids finish, have them compare answers and see which clues were the hardest and which were the easiest.

Answer Key: A: Increase. P: Obey. B: Uprooted. C: Apron. U: Sea. E: Mulberry R: Apostles D: Commanded. Y: Supper. N: Seed

Seed Sudoku - Puzzle

Give child a worksheet and have them fill in the blanks with the correct picture.