

The Gospel at Home

This Week's Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus' disciples ask him to increase their faith. Jesus uses the example of a mustard seed to tell them that even a little bit of faith is powerful. Faith in Jesus gives the power to perform miracles and to recognize those we witness.

In Jesus' time masters were masters and slaves were slaves. Masters didn't sit down to eat with slaves or reward them for doing their jobs. Jesus used this reality to make a point. His parable is critical of disciples who want to become masters of their fate or to lord it over others. Service is the ordinary duty of all Jesus' followers.

Exploring the Gospel Message

Seeds (Preschool): Your child has learned to recognize the growth he or she sees all around. The lesson also taught that we can all trust Jesus. Talk with your child about the story of the tiny seed. Ask to see your child's "I'm growing inside and out" booklet, and let the child explain the booklet to you. Consider taking a walk to see what things are growing in your neighborhood.

Promise (Grades K-1): This week's lesson centered on the trust children have in people they know and love. The lesson also showed that we can all trust Jesus. Ask your child to tell you the story of the tiny seed in the Gospel story. Ask your child why Layna needed to trust people on her first day of school. Encourage your child to show you the four images of people he or she can trust. Let him or her tell you why these people were chosen.

Good News (Grades 2-3): This lesson focused on recognizing signs of faith in God. Ask your child what lesson Maya learned from her Aunt Stacy. Tell him or her what it was like when God gave your child the gift of faith at Baptism. Ask your child to tell you what a Creed is. Brainstorm with your child ideas of how your family faith can grow like the mustard seed.

Venture (Grades 4-6): A discussion of faith is at the heart of this week's session. Discuss how your child felt while reading the story of Rachel's visit to the soup kitchen. Use this opportunity to talk about what faith is like for your family. What do you do as a family to nourish the "mustard seed" of faith and make it grow? What more could you do? Work together to write a statement of faith for your family. Ask your youngster to tell you why Saint Mary MacKillop is the Patroness of Australia.

Visions (Grades 7-8): This week your young person discussed the importance of faith and belief. The class read about Tom's experience at his new school and the importance of standing up for yourself and for things that you believe to be right. Talk with your youngster about the faith survey he or she took during class. Share what faith means to you and to your family. Talk about the ways we use the word *faith*—knowing, thinking, and trusting. Which of these ways best describes faith in God?

Pray Together

After your conversation, sit quietly for a moment. Then let each member of the family ask God in his or her own words to help the family grow in faith.