

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**  
**TRINITY 16**



## **Readings**

**2 Timothy 1 verses 1 – 14**

**Luke 17 verses 5 - 10**

Dear Lord, help us to exercise our faith each day, but also help us to remember that your strength is enough for anything we need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

## Theme

Mustard seed faith. Little is much when God is in it.

## Object

A jar of jelly (or something similar) and a hand exerciser or a rubber ball to squeeze.

## Luke 17:5-10 from the International Children's Bible

### How Big Is Your Faith?

<sup>5</sup> The apostles said to the Lord, "Give us more faith!"

<sup>6</sup> The Lord said, "If your faith is as big as a mustard seed,<sup>[a]</sup> then you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Dig yourself up and plant yourself in the sea!' And the tree will obey you.

### Be Good Servants

<sup>7</sup> "Suppose one of you has a servant who has been plowing the ground or caring for the sheep. When the servant comes in from working in the field, would you say, 'Come in and sit down to eat'? <sup>8</sup> No, you would say to your servant, 'Prepare something for me to eat. Then get yourself ready and serve me. When I finish eating and drinking, then you can eat and drink.' <sup>9</sup> The servant does not get any special thanks for doing what his master told him to do. <sup>10</sup> It is the same with you. When you do everything you are told to do, you should say, 'We don't deserve any special thanks. We have only done the work we should do.'"

The apostles said to the Lord, "Show us how to increase our faith." The Lord answered, "If you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'May you be uprooted and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you!"

One day I took a jar of jam out of the cupboard and tried to open it. I tried and tried to open the jar, but my hands just weren't strong enough to hold the jar tightly and turn the lid. It is a little embarrassing to try to open a jar and not be able to do it, so I decided that I needed to increase the strength in my hands. I got this hand exerciser to help me. You have probably seen one of these. You just squeeze the two sides together, like this. If you don't have one of these, you can do the same type of exercise by squeezing a rubber ball. By doing these exercises every day, my hands will surely be strong enough to open a jar of jelly. It doesn't take a huge amount of strength to open a jar of jam, does it? No, if you just have a little strength, that will be enough.

How many of you know what faith is? Faith is trusting in God and depending on him. Faith is like a muscle, if you exercise your faith every day, it will become stronger. We are sometimes very quick to say that we have faith in God. We say that we believe that He can do anything, but then we act as if everything depends on us. That isn't a very strong faith, is it? One day, Jesus was teaching his disciples about the importance of forgiving others. He told them that even if someone sins against you seven times a day, you must forgive them every time. The disciples thought that would be a very hard thing to do, so they said to Jesus, "Show us how to increase our faith." Jesus answered them, "If you had faith, even as small as a mustard seed, then you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you." Well, that is amazing faith, isn't it? Do you know why that is possible? It is because God's power doesn't depend on our strength. It all depends on him! There is a song that we sing that says it all. "My God is so big, so strong and so mighty. There's nothing my God cannot do!" All we need is just a little bit of faith!

Dear Lord, help us to exercise our faith each day, but also help us to remember that your strength is enough for anything we need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### Learn the chorus below



On - ly be-lieve, on - ly be-lieve; All things are pos-si-ble, on - ly be-lieve.

On - ly be-lieve, on - ly be-lieve; All things are pos-si-ble, on - ly be-lieve.

(segue)

WORDS: Paul Rader  
MUSIC: Paul Rader

ONLY BELIEVE  
Irregular meter

# God Hears My Prayers



# A Mustard Seed Faith

He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you." Luke 17:6 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 17:5-10 (NIV).



Mustard Seed  
Faith

H	G	T	P	M	P	W	O	K	U	Y	P	T	U	B
M	G	E	Q	K	U	W	L	P	D	I	P	A	S	S
W	U	W	I	X	Y	S	R	F	R	U	T	E	U	E
B	P	L	O	P	Z	W	T	G	I	E	T	E	P	E
U	P	V	B	B	L	S	E	A	C	K	P	Y	P	D
I	G	B	E	E	F	A	I	T	R	E	E	V	E	F
A	N	J	Y	I	R	P	N	B	O	D	S	W	R	G
P	U	C	G	A	T	R	X	T	S	P	H	Z	I	R
O	P	P	R	A	H	O	Y	R	E	P	L	I	E	D
S	R	R	E	E	A	S	K	U	A	D	I	D	B	F
T	O	E	B	E	A	N	M	F	I	L	O	R	D	M
L	O	P	T	P	X	S	K	A	A	E	X	O	C	O
E	T	A	R	W	T	B	E	Y	L	I	W	L	J	F
S	E	R	S	E	R	V	A	N	T	L	T	O	A	O
X	D	E	Z	S	A	K	D	R	I	N	K	H	D	K

DRINK  
FAITH  
SERVANT  
SEED

SEA  
EAT  
LORD  
REPLIED

DUTY  
INCREASE  
UPROOTED  
TREE

OBEY  
PLANTED  
MUSTARD  
MULBERRY

APOSTLES  
SMALL  
PREPARE  
SUPPER

**Print, cut out and colour the words on the next page**

Faith is just believing what God  
said He would do!!

Faith is just believing what God  
said He would do!!

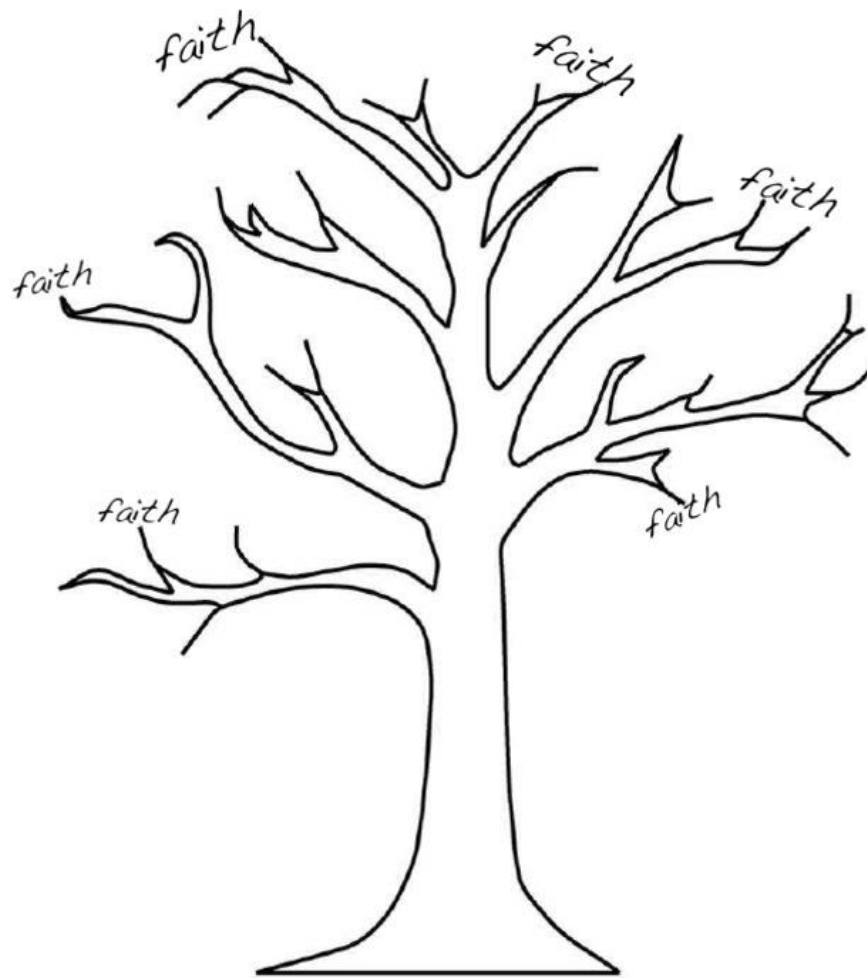
Faith is just believing what God  
said He would do!!

Faith is just believing what God  
said He would do!!



## Give Me More Faith!

Luke 17:5-10



One day the disciples asked Jesus, "Give us more faith!" So, Jesus told them that if they wanted to make their faith in God big and strong, they just needed to do God's good work. What can you do to grow your faith big and strong?

**Draw some leaves on the tree to show how your faith is growing.**

Grow some mustard or mustard and cress in a small pot. Put some cotton wool in the bottom and water it so it is damp. Sprinkle your seeds onto the cotton wool. Look after it by keeping it watered and stand where it is light – maybe a kitchen windowsill and watch your seeds grow. This will show how your faith can grow. Cut the mustard and cress when it is ready and enjoy in a sandwich with egg or something of your choice – this will show how God's kingdom will grow if people believe.