

Prayer Suggestion – Luke 17: 5-11 Year C – Pentecost 20 Oct 2 2016



What this is: Intergenerational Prayer Reflection and take home cards



Where it's used: Intergenerational Lectionary based gatherings



Time: 5-7 minutes



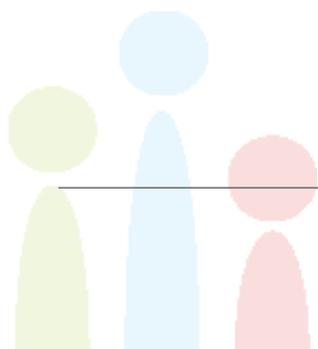
Bible focus/theme: Luke 17:5-11



What's needed: Artwork 'Faith as small as mustard' by Chris Booth. Post-cards of Artwork; Terracotta clay flattened into a tray, mustard seeds.

Note on the text: This is one of only a few times Jesus' companions are referred to as 'Apostles' in the gospels. Matthew, Mark and John only have a couple of uses each, and Luke has 6. The title of Apostle really belongs to the book of Acts. The term 'Apostles' is associated with Jesus sending his followers out to proclaim the kingdom. As Jesus sends the 'apostles' he tells them not to take anything extra with them –they are not to hoard resources, or have 'more' of anything. The life of the apostle is one of faith and simplicity, of living with less, and making oneself empty, not great.

In this text, Jesus directly addresses the risk that apostles might think of faith as a possession, and a status indicator in which more faith is a 'credit' to them. Not so says Jesus. Small faith is good faith. After all, it's all God's faith, not ours, anyhow.



Join the Dots...

VCCE Children and Families ministry formation through Communities of Practice



Art Reflection



In this piece of art, there are two kinds of faith being shown. One is a big noisy powerful faith. The other is the quiet, small mustard seed faith that Jesus talks about.

- If you saw this piece of art, before hearing Jesus' story about faith, which of the two people would you guess to be an example of faith?
- In our community we have people with mustard seed faith, the kind that Jesus values – can you tell who they are?
- Can you use this piece of art to retell Jesus' teaching about faith and mulberry trees and mustard seeds?

Prayer gathering

Prayer in your gathering and in church or in households:

- Display the art and prayer on screen.
- Set up a tray of terracotta clay with the letters f a i t h traced lightly in the clay.
- Place a bowl of mustard seeds by the clay.

Introduce the time of prayer, and invite the congregation to join on the words in red, and at the invitation

‘The things we pray for today with our mustard seeds are...’

- to speak out their prayer concerns
- to quietly name their prayers in their hearts
- to come to the tray and press a small mustard seed into the clay of faith, **as a symbol of committing our prayers to the faithfulness of God.**

After a space for expressing prayers in these various ways, conclude the prayer liturgy, inviting all to say together **‘Let good things grow and evil be tossed aside’** and conclude the prayer.

Options for enhancement:

Organise some prepared prayers holding the concerns of your community and the wider world to be spoken out in the free space, and invite the whole gathering to support each prayer with the response **‘Let good things grow and evil be tossed aside’**.

Play appropriate music, for example, **‘Great is your faithfulness’** or **‘Have faith in God’** during the reflective parts of the prayer.

Turn the Artwork **‘Faith as small as mustard’** by Chris Booth into postcards for people to take home to their households as a prompt for prayer through the week either with the extended prayer, or the simple prompt **‘Let good things grow and evil be tossed aside’** (see sample images)

Faithful God,
We come to you
with the tiny seed of faith
that you have given us.
And with this small-seed faith
we pray gently and hopefully
for the world.

We don't have
a big powerful faith;
we can't think of how to
fix the problems of the world.
But we trust you
to know what to do,

we know need your help
and the things we know
we might help too,
if we listen to you
to know how.

The things we pray for today with
our mustard seeds are...

.....
Let good things grow, and evil be
tossed aside.
In Jesus' name
Amen.



**Let good things grow,
and evil be tossed aside.**
- Amen.

