

Showing and Sharing Faith

OBJECTIVE: *To contemplate the significance of faith, growing our faith, and sharing our faith.*



WORSHIP

Sing praise and worship songs as well as songs about faith that are familiar and meaningful to your group. Here are some suggestions.

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

"Amazing Grace"

"Anywhere With Jesus"

"Behold, Behold"

"Faith Is the Victory"

"Freely, Freely"

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

"I Love to Tell the Story"

"My God Is So Great"

"Praise the Lord Together"

"They'll Know We Are Christians by
Our Love"

"This Is My Story"

STORY

Jesus Heals an Epileptic Boy, Matthew 17:14-21

- A father asks Jesus to heal his son.
- Jesus sends a demon out of the boy.
- Jesus says that nothing is impossible for those who have faith.

Point out a real father and son in your group, and encourage everyone to remember that this story took place with real people, just like those sitting and listening to you now. Read the Scripture. As you read verses 20 and 21, hand each person a small seed.

MEMORY VERSE

"This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).

To help the children remember the verse, ask them to repeat it several times using hand motions.

This is the victory that overcomes

(hold hand up with forefinger and middle finger extended in a victory sign)

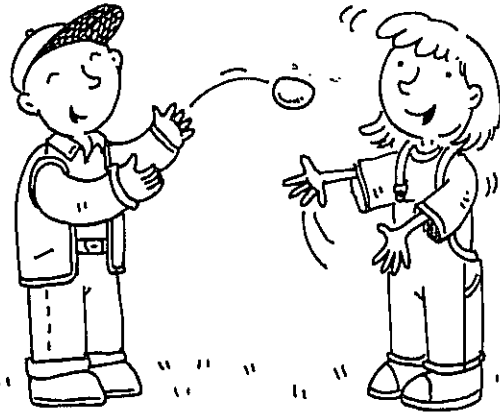
the world (arms overhead in a circle to represent the world)

even our faith (right hand over heart)

ACTIVITIES

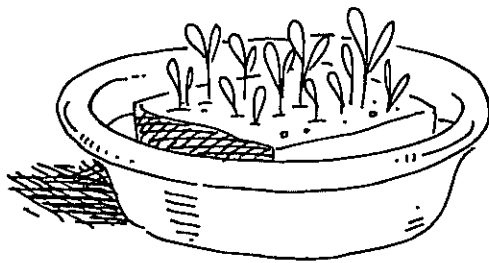
Choose one or more of the following activities to support the story and to provide a springboard for discussion.

EGG TOSS. Do this activity on a lawn or surface where you don't mind having broken eggs. Each person chooses a partner. One holds a raw egg; the other stands about 1 yard away. One tosses the egg; the other catches it. After each toss, partners take a step back. See how far apart you can stand and still catch the egg. Discuss faith in your partner, trusting him to catch the fragile egg. Discuss faith in God, trusting him with your needs and the needs of others.



SEED MATCH. Get different kinds of seeds from seed packets or from fruit. Tape each kind of seed onto two different index cards. You should have two matching cards of each seed. Turn the cards over, mix them up, and put them in rows. Then play a memory game. Taking turns, each person turns over two cards, trying to find the two that are alike. When matching cards are turned over, they are removed. Talk about how faith is like a seed. Say: "Our faith can grow. How? How can we share our faith?"

DOUGH MOUNTAINS. Make mountains out of play dough. (You can make play dough by mixing together 3 parts flour, 1 part salt, and 1 part water.) If you want, everyone can connect their mountains to make a mountain chain. Talk about what Jesus said: "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move" (Matthew 17:20).



SPROUTING SEEDS. Give each person a disposable bowl and a sponge. Each person dampens the sponge, places it in the bowl, and sprinkles the sponge with grass seed or bird seed. Ask each person to take his bowl home, keep the sponge wet, and watch the seeds sprout. Talk about faith *as small as a mustard seed*. Talk about growing faith, showing faith, and sharing faith.

QUESTIONS

1. What is faith?
2. Everybody has faith in something. What are some things people put their faith in? Will these things really help them or not?
3. Why would someone want to put his faith in Jesus?
4. How can we know someone has faith in Jesus? How does it show?

KIDS' COUNCIL

BRING IT HOME

- What do you think Jesus meant when he said that faith the size of a mustard seed could move mountains? Who has this kind of faith? Did his disciples have it?
- Talk about how we sometimes call big problems in our lives *mountains*. Why would we call a problem a mountain? Can faith help us with this kind of mountain? How?
- Why would we want to share our faith? How can we share our faith?
- How will you show your faith this week?
- Is there someone you can share your faith with this week?

SHARE AND PRAY

- Ask the children to share their concerns and pray for each other.
- Thank God for giving us faith.
- Ask God who he wants us to share our faith with this week. Ask him to give us the courage, the right words, and the right actions to show our faith.

ADULT STUDY QUESTIONS

- Have you ever experienced your faith moving mountains? How did it happen?
- What are some ways a person shows his faith?
- What are some specific ways to share your faith with others?
- How can faith grow? Is it possible that, just as when we exercise our muscles, our muscles grow, when we exercise our faith, our faith grows?
- We sometimes call big problems in our lives *mountains*. Why would we call a problem a mountain? Can faith help us with this kind of mountain? How? What mountains are in your life right now?

SNACK AND FELLOWSHIP

Frosted Mountains. Use cans of ready-made crescent roll or biscuit dough. Form each dough roll or biscuit into a small mountain. Make one for each person. Place these on a cookie sheet. Sprinkle each biscuit mountain with cinnamon. Bake as directed on the package. Make powdered sugar frosting by putting 1 cup of powdered sugar into a small bowl and adding milk 1 teaspoonful at a time, stirring after each addition until the frosting is the right consistency to pour. Then pour a little frosting on top of each mountain so that it looks like there's snow on the mountain.