

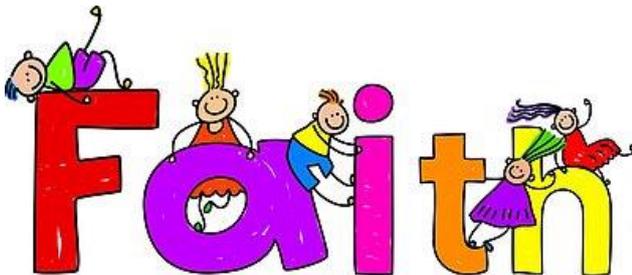


Read Luke 17.5-10

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

Imagine that you are a good football player – what would you need to do to become a better player? If you play a musical instrument – the recorder, the piano, or a guitar, for example – how would you improve your skill? We usually have to work hard at our skills or interests if we want to improve them. Most things require dedication and practice. Sometimes another person can help us or give us advice about how to improve. In football that person may be a coach; in music that person may be a teacher. Do you have a skill that you are trying to work on or improve? Who helps you to develop your skills?

In today's Bible reading some of Jesus's followers ask him to help them increase their faith. They turn to Jesus for help, just as we might turn to a coach, a teacher or an expert to help us develop a skill. What do you think the word "faith" means? Why do you think the apostles wanted to increase their faith? Do you think they were worried about their faith? Did they have enough faith to do what God wanted of them?



Jesus told them that even a small amount of faith can achieve extraordinary things. What example did he use?

Jesus then said that faith needs to be worked at. He said that it was like a slave doing jobs for his master; the slave does what the master needs without question. Slavery was considered to be quite normal at the time of Jesus but we now know that slavery is bad. We need to think of this example that Jesus uses in a different way. If we have faith in God then we belong to God – we are part of God's family. We will do what God wants us to do. We will complete the tasks that God requires of us, just like the slave does the tasks for his master. As we live for God, our relationship with God develops, and our faith grows.

Activity

- What can you do this week to help your faith to grow? How can you share your faith with others?
- The leaves are wonderful colours at this time of year. Make a picture out of different coloured leaves that represents your faith in God. You could make it in the garden or glue leaves onto a piece of paper. As you look at the picture you have created, think about God who created the world and each one of us uniquely – remember that we choose to belong to God and live in the way God wants us to live.

Prayer

Help us, Lord, to make the most of whatever you have given us.
Thank you for all the people who have guided us and helped our faith to grow.
Show us how our faith can continue to develop,
so that we draw closer and closer to you and live as you want us to. Amen.