

Website Resources - Faithfulness

Being faithful – what’s all that about? Is it staying true to your own values?? Is it sticking to the food you like, and only the food you like? Or only hanging around with the friends you’ve already made? Is there a difference between being faithful and being stubborn?

In the letter to the Hebrews, the writer urged them again and again to keep faith, he (we presume it was a ‘he’) was concerned that the people were turning away from the church because, having been faithful, they didn’t seem to be getting any reward and were finding it tough to stay faithful. They were reminded to keep their faith in Jesus.

Have you ever been on a plane? I’m not a nervous flier, but I’ve sat next people who are. And it doesn’t matter whether you’re a seasoned traveler who tucks into the tiny pretzels they give you and checks out what in-flight entertainment is available, or whether you’re the sort of person that offers up all sorts of prayers at the first hint of turbulence, we are all putting our faith in the Pilot. It’s their skill that matters, not ours.

We should have more faith that Jesus, God, knows what’s happening and will help us to deal with it.

Here are some links to resources that might be of use:

Parable of the mustard seed

There is a sermon outline and resource suggestions available on sermons4kids.com

https://sermons4kids.com/parable_mustard_seed.htm

https://sermons4kids.com/parable_mustard_seed_group_activities.htm

Walking the Way Resource Map <https://urc.org.uk/wtw-resource-map>

Check out the resource map on the Walking the Way website for ideas and suggestions for all aspects of your faith journey.

Exploring our Faith – God Talk – A resource from the Scottish United Reformed and Congregational College (SURCC)

<https://urc.org.uk/wtwresources/Exploring-Our-Faith---God-Talk.pdf>

Song – Faith as small as a mustard seed

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFEUjy42xNk>

Team building activities to encourage participants to build trust and faithfulness in one another.

Blindfold obstacle course

Set up an obstacle course and mark out a route that participants must follow. Get creative with the resources you have available, such as rows of chairs to create narrow passages to walk through, or tables to crawl under. Participants complete the course in pairs, with one partner blindfolded and the other providing navigation instructions. After the game, discuss how it felt to trust the partner and rely on their instructions.

Back to Back Drawing

Split into partners and sit back to back. One person has a pencil and blank sheet of paper, and the other person is given a picture with an obscure shape on it. The person with the shape must give instructions to their partner, who must try and accurately draw the shape on the paper.

Video instructions available here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yGhNwDMT-g>

Being faithful – a session plan for those who work with children

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5205bde4e4b03ad27ab212f1/t/55c6c177e4b0d93b6177ded4/1439089015967/Clarity+Kids-Elementary-Berry+Blast+Theme+Park-Lesson+2-August+30+2015.pdf>

Faithfulness – a lesson plan for those working with children

<https://www.kidsofintegrity.com/lessons/faithfulness>

Reflection – By Simon Peters – Walking the Way project manager.

Showing faith in humans can go one of two ways. It can show people that we trust them and believe in their abilities, encouraging them to do a good job with the responsibility we've given them, but it can also lead people to take advantage of us, using the situation for their own gains.

The bottom line is, showing faith is risky. Looking to Scripture, we read of many people who put their trust in God by answering the call to do things which seemed impossible. We read of prophets who couldn't speak well (Moses), evangelists who were fearful (Jonah) and disciples who had a lot to lose (Matthew). God always seems to have a habit of calling people who aren't prepared for the job. God puts faith in us, asking us to do the same in return.

Unlike humans, though, God will always be there for us. Just a mustard-seed-sized amount of faith can, quite literally, move mountains with God's help. The mustard seed is one of the smallest known, yet it grows into an invasive weed that infects absolutely everything around it. The question for us, then, is whether we will see God's faith in us as a chance to put our trust in God, growing and learning as we move towards a fulfilment that will benefit the whole of creation, or shy away, trusting only what we can see, perhaps gaining a few benefits for ourselves but no one else?

Have a look at '[The one about...](#)' from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC), which shares the stories of ten ordinary people who recognise God in their everyday reality and, by putting their trust in God, are able to use their everyday, normal activities to achieve the most amazing things. What is God calling you to do in your everyday reality? What support do you need? Will you trust God and answer the call?