

OCTOBER 6, 2019
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking faith home

No matter what happens, put your trust in God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 17:5-10	Faith the size of a mustard seed
Monday	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4	The righteous live by faith
Tuesday	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Wednesday	Isaiah 26:1-9	The Lord can be trusted
Thursday	James 1:2-11	Faith produces endurance
Friday	Proverbs 37:1-9	Trust God
Saturday	Psalms 37:1-9	Trust the Lord
Sunday	Luke 17:11-19	One leper gives thanks to God

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

... and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him.

2 Timothy 1:12 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, thank you for making your defense of us shine like the light and the justice of your cause like the noonday, through Christ our Lord, amen. (Psalm 37:6).

Mealtime Prayer:

May this food our body and soul feed and may we be blessed with faith the size of a mustard seed. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord protect you and bless you with faith in Christ.



© 2018 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

OCTOBER 6, 2019
HYMN OF THE WEEK
O Holy Spirit, Enter In

taking faith home

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What words describe someone you can trust?
- What does it mean when we say in God we trust?
- How does faith in God help you to trust God in difficult times?

DEVOTIONS

Read: 2 Timothy 1:1-14.

Faith does not rely on one victory followed by another victory, day in and day out. Paul knows current suffering yet trusts in God's "own purpose and grace," a grace that "was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began" (v. 9). In the meantime—and without being ashamed—Paul, Timothy, and all the saints will endure sufferings (vv. 8, 12). What does faith look like? It takes delight in God, even when the wicked are present (Psalm 37:1-9). Faith gives thanks when good health is not present, when income is low, when others would not know it is time to praise God. When Jesus says all we need is the faith of a mustard seed (Luke 17:6), he is pointing out that it is not how much faith you have, but in whom you place your trust. This is the life of faith that guided Jesus, Paul, and saints throughout the ages. As Paul writes, "Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God" (v. 8).

Pray: Lord God, give us faith to trust in our Lord Jesus who suffered and died that we may live in trust and hope in your goodness and mercy, now and always. Amen.

SERVICE

Being a servant of Jesus does not mean everything works out the way you—or God—desires. Evil still continues. We can obsess over the presence of sin and end up doing evil ourselves. Being preoccupied with the sins of others does not help. Psalm 37 simply says "Trust in the LORD, and do good" (v. 3a) even when wrongdoing occurs. Be the hands and voice of God's love this week. Reach out to someone experiencing difficulties and be a support for them.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

When the disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith, he answered by telling them if they had faith the size of a mustard seed, they could move a tree. (Luke 17:5-6) Draw a large tree on a sheet of paper. Take just one mustard seed (or small seed) and tape it in the center of the tree. Think about how powerful faith is if something as small as a mustard seed can move trees. Faith is not measured by size when Christ is present. In what small ways can you make a difference by practicing faith in your home (e.g., praying for others or blessing someone)?



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org