

## Don't Forget Your Umbrella



**Theme:** Our lack of faith can limit the power of God. Proper 9 (14) 6th Sunday after Pentecost

**Object:** An umbrella

**Scripture:** He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith. Mark 6:5-6

You may be wondering why I would be carrying my umbrella to church this morning. After all, there isn't a cloud in the sky. Perhaps you thought I brought my umbrella to shade me from the hot sun. No, that isn't the reason. I am carrying my umbrella because we need rain and I am going to pray and ask God to send rain. How many of you believe that God has the power to make it rain?

Well, I got to thinking about that and I thought to myself, "We say that we believe God can make it rain, but we pray for rain and we don't even carry our umbrella with us." It doesn't seem to me that we really believe that God has the power to make it rain if we don't have enough faith to carry an umbrella.

Did you know that our lack of faith can limit the power of God? That's what the Bible says.

One time Jesus was in his hometown. When the Sabbath came, he was teaching in the synagogue. Many of the people who heard Jesus' teaching started to criticize him. "Who does he think he is? And where does he get this wisdom and the power to do miracles? Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't he the son of Mary and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Don't his sisters live right here in the same town with us?"

Jesus heard them criticizing him and he said to them, "A prophet has little honor in his own home town among his friends and relatives." The Bible tells us that because of their lack of faith, Jesus was powerless to do any miracles there, except to heal a few sick people.

Jesus once told his disciples, "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." (Matthew 21:22) So, if you really believe that God has the power to make it rain, the next time you pray to God and ask him to make it rain, don't forget your umbrella!

Father, we say we believe, but sometimes our actions don't show it. Help us to show our faith by our actions. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**UMBRELLA RELAY:** Divide the class into 2 or more teams, depending on how large the class is. Each team will be given an umbrella. The first team player on each team will have to open the umbrella, run to the finish line and back to the team. Before handing the umbrella over to the next team player, he/she must close the umbrella. Then the next player will open the umbrella and run the same race, each time closing the umbrella for the new player.

**UMBRELLA HIDE AND SEEK:** The teacher will need to find many umbrellas. Open the umbrellas and place them in various places in a large area. Children will turn their backs away from the umbrellas until the teacher has placed one child BEHIND an umbrella. The children will then turn around and try to guess where the child is hiding. The child who guesses which umbrella is hiding the child, will be the next child to be hidden behind another umbrella.

**UMBRELLA OBSTACLE RACE:** The teacher can have many umbrellas placed in different places for the children to run around the umbrellas as in an obstacle race. Then have children sit in a circle and listen to today's Bible story.

**UMBRELLA ART:** Provide children with a piece of construction paper and a baking cup muffin paper, as well as chenille wire, markers, glitter and stickers. Children can glue a side of the baking cup paper to the construction piece of paper to be an umbrella and add the chenille wire as the umbrella handle. Write words from today's lesson about FAITH, ACTIONS, BELIEVING, etc on their artwork.

**FAITH UMBRELLAS:** Provide each child with a small, solid colored umbrella to remember our FAITH lesson today. Children can use fabric markers to write OUR ACTIONS SHOW OUR FAITH or other words from our lesson, to decorate their own umbrellas.

**FAITH MARKERS:** Give children paper and crayons and a cut out cross for them to color in many colors. Then tell children to color the BLACK crayon over the top. Then give children a pencil or a toothpick to draw the letters FAITH and see the other colors show through the top black color. Tell children to use these book markers in their Bible or reading books at home to remind them to have FAITH in GOD and then to see HIS POWER in their lives.

**UMBRELLA WALL-HANGING MOBILE:** Have large umbrellas traced on card stock and let children cut them out and color them. Then hang the umbrellas on a wall and tape drops of rain paper cut outs under the umbrella with words from our lesson about faith and power and wisdom and healing, etc.

**UMBRELLA BIBLE LESSON:** Give each child a tracing of an umbrella for them to color and then trace or write their own words on the various colored sections of the umbrella with words from today's lesson - BELIEVE IN GOD'S POWER, or SHOW OUR FAITH BY OUR ACTIONS. Tape the umbrellas to the classroom door!

**PRAYING HANDS:** Let children trace each other's hands this time and then pass the praying hands to the right and let those children color the hands and write Matthew 21:22 - IF YOU BELIEVE, YOU WILL RECEIVE WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER. Give children tape to tape the praying hands on their shirt or dress today.