

Twenty-seventh Sunday of the Year

Have faith

INTRODUCTION

When people believe in the power of Jesus, extraordinary things can happen because nothing is impossible for God.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Say together:

May the light of Jesus shine in our lives.

SORRY

Because we trust in God's goodness and his love for us, we are not afraid to come before him to admit our mistakes and ask for his forgiveness as we sing Sorry Song 5.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 4:
Praise the Lord.

GOSPEL (cf Luke 17:5-6)

One day the apostles said to Jesus, 'Master make our faith grow.' Jesus said to them, 'With just a little faith you can do marvellous things. If you truly believe in me then nothing is impossible.'

DISCUSSION

Do you know what the word faith means? – It means to have complete trust in something or someone, to believe in that thing or person completely.

Can you think of some people in the Bible who had great faith in God?

– Noah built an ark even though others laughed at him; he believed and trusted in God.

– Abraham's trust in God was so great that he is often called our 'Father in Faith'. He was ready to sacrifice Isaac his son because God asked him to.

– a Roman centurion believed that Jesus could cure his servant with a simple command.

There are many examples of people's faith throughout the Old and New testament. Each of them had *complete* trust in God and believed that he would always take care of them and do what was best.

Listen to this story about a woman who had complete faith in Jesus.

A large crowd of people surrounded Jesus as he

walked along. Many had come to see him; others wanted to talk to him or listen to his words; one woman in the crowd just wanted to touch him. She had been ill for twelve long years, and no-one could make her better. 'If I can get close enough just to touch his cloak,' she thought, 'then I believe that Jesus will cure me.' She pushed her way through the bustling crowd, and stretching out her hand, she managed to touch Jesus as he passed. At once she knew that she was cured! Then Jesus asked Peter, 'Who touched me?' and Peter answered, 'Master, in such a crowd many people have touched you.' 'I felt my power leaving me,' Jesus said. Then the woman stepped forward and said, 'I touched you because I believed that you would cure me and you have!' Jesus said to the woman, 'Because you believed in me, your faith has made you well. Go in peace!'

What did the woman believe would happen if she managed to touch Jesus? – She believed that Jesus had the power to cure her illness, and this power was so great that one touch was enough.

What did Jesus say to the woman at the end of the story? – 'Because you believed in me your faith has made you well.' Faith is a gift from God; it helps us to pray and to believe. There are many things we do not know or understand about God, but with faith we can put our trust in God and his word.

ACTIVITY

Photocopy the series of pictures telling the story of the faithful woman and help the children to arrange them in the correct order. Staple the pictures together to make a small booklet.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Send your spirit Lord,
to increase our faith in you,
and to work through the hearts
of all those who believe.
Help us to believe in your goodness,
and to always trust
in your love for us.