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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, October 2, 2016

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year C

Scripture: [Luke 17:5-10](#) [Summary: Jesus tells the disciples that faith the size of a mustard seed is enough.]

Supplies Needed: A timer or stopwatch or alarm clock that uses a battery. You will also need two (sets of) batteries. A brand new battery and a used battery.

Note: In a pinch, you could use a flashlight, but the teaching concept is less correct when you use a “high-drain” device instead of a “low-drain” device. Batteries with less electricity in them actually do affect device performance, but this is a non-factor when considering low-drain devices (well...until the battery is just about dead).

ASK (a.k.a [The On-Ramp](#))

- Good morning!
- [*Show battery from the stopwatch*] Can you tell me what this is? (A battery!)
- What do batteries do? (run things! Give things power)
- And how do batteries run things? (by storing energy/electricity and then “giving” it to the device that needs the electricity)
- Can you tell me how much electricity is stored in this battery just by looking at it? (No.)
- Well, it just so happens that this battery has been used in this stopwatch for some time now [*if the stopwatch is new or has a new battery, to keep from being untruthful, the night before, simply let it run for 20 minutes*].
- Let's see if it works. [*Put battery in and turn on the stopwatch*]. Does it work?
- Now, let's take a brand new battery, a battery that has MORE electricity stored in it than the battery that's in the stopwatch right now, and let's put the battery with MORE electricity in the stopwatch.
- [*Put battery in and turn on the flashlight*]. What do you think? Does the stopwatch work any differently with this battery? (Yes! No! Maybe!)

- No, not at all. And that's because the just a very little itty bit of electricity is all that's needed to run this stopwatch.

TELL (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- So in today's scripture story, we hear the disciples asking Jesus to increase their faith. They want MORE faith.
- But Jesus tells them that just a very little-itty-bit of faith is all that they need in order to do amazing things.
- Basically, Jesus is telling them that faith is like a battery and that they are like a stopwatch.
- Jesus is telling the disciples that GREATER or STRONGER faith doesn't help them do God's work.
- Instead, just a little bit of faith is all that is needed to keep going and going and going.
- Which is why Jesus then tells a story of someone who keeps going and going and going. Someone who works in the field all day and then works in the house without a break.

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- So even though Jesus is telling the disciples that they don't need GREATER or STRONGER or INCREASED faith, he does teach them that their faith will still need to be *recharged*.
- In fact, a lot of what Jesus taught the disciples to do was how to recharge their mustard-sized faith.
- And, we can recharge our faith in the same ways Jesus taught his disciples.
- We can do this by worshiping together, by learning about God in Sunday school and by praying and listening to God on our own, with family members and church members.
- Then, when we keep getting our faith recharged by God, we'll be able to keep going and going and going.
- We'll keep doing amazing things, and we'll keep sharing and giving God's better way to live with the people around us.
- And that's the good news for today.
- Let's Pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God,

Dear God,

Thank you for Jesus...

Thank you for Jesus...

...who taught us to recharge our faith...

...who taught us to recharge our faith...

...so that we can keep sharing...

...so that we can keep sharing...

...your love and gifts with others...

...your love and gifts with others...

...just like Jesus did!

...just like Jesus did!

Thank you and Amen