

Explore It

FOR LEADERS

SESSION
08

A MIGHTY FAITH

 **Matthew 17:14-21 Jesus heals a demon-possessed boy**

Please refer to the Introduction document for more details

Start it

Play 'Two Truths and a Lie'.

● **Say:** We are going to play a game that means you need to tell us three things about yourself. Two of them need to be true and one you need to make up. Everyone else then has to decide which one they think you have made up. Take a minute to decide your three things and then we'll take it in turns to play.

(To save time you could ask your group members to prepare their three statements before they come to the session.)

Play the game.

● **Say:** I don't know how hard you found it to decide what you believed and what you didn't. In today's story, even the disciples, after having spent three years with Jesus, seeing him heal the sick and perform many other miracles, had difficulties believing. But Jesus tells them that with even a small amount of faith they can do amazing things.

Sing It

Sing this familiar song together. It links to the final verse of the Bible reading for this session.

'Faith as Small as a Mustard Seed' (Doug Horley)

<https://youtu.be/xECxevPcRBs>

Tell It

Leader's Note: Before starting today's session, you will need to download the story and the notes in the format you prefer to work with.

If you follow this link: <http://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/jesus-heals-boy> you have three options to choose:

- i) View slideshow
- ii) Download the image set (PDF, PowerPoint, Keynote or JPEGs)
- iii) Story planner

● **Say:** As I tell you today's Bible story you can look at the pictures on the screen to help you imagine what was happening.

Share the screen and tell the story.

● **When you have read the last slide say:** Jesus told the disciples that they couldn't drive out the demon because they had so little faith. Jesus said to them, even if you only have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can move mountains!

🗨️ **Say:**

- ➔ I wonder: What do you think you would have done if you had seen the boy foaming at the mouth and grinding his teeth?
- ➔ I wonder: How did the disciples feel when they couldn't drive the demon out and they had to admit it to Jesus?
- ➔ I wonder: How did the crowd feel when they saw Jesus shouting at the demon?
- ➔ I wonder: How would you have felt when the boy looked like he was dead?
- ➔ I wonder: How would the disciples have felt when Jesus told them they didn't have enough faith?
- ➔ I wonder: What did Jesus mean when he said if you have faith as small as a mustard seed you can move mountains?

Action It

You need: two pieces of kitchen towel, felt-tip pens (colours of the rainbow), a black permanent pen (e.g. Sharpie) and some water (best in a spray bottle).

You use the felt tips to draw the colours of the rainbow, then use the permanent marker over the top of the colours so it just looks like a black rainbow. Splash some water on the kitchen paper and the colours underneath will bleed and make the coloured rainbow.

You need to prepare this activity beforehand, up to the point you sprinkle the water on. (We suggest you have a couple of practice runs beforehand as well.) Watch this YouTube video for instructions: 'Make a 'magical' rainbow with capillary action.' <https://youtu.be/Yj0pDm-t9O8>

🗨️ **Say:** I want to show you something as an example that if we believe enough, then something amazing may happen. I am going to make for you a rainbow – not just an ordinary rainbow – but one that looks quite boring to start and not very colourful, until we add something extra. Then the beauty of the colours will appear.

Conduct the experiment and hopefully the result will wow the children. (You may need to adjust your camera angle so the group can see the experiment clearly.)

🗨️ **Say:** Isn't that amazing! Let me show you how it works.

Repeat the experiment so children can see how it's done.

🗨️ **Say:** If you look at the Explore It (Together) sheet you will see how to do this activity at home and amaze your family!

🗨️ **Say:** But let's just think for a minute: what was it in this experiment that made all the difference? (Hopefully, they will say the water). Yes, the water made the colour and beauty come through. Faith is like that. We can carry on our lives doing ordinary things, worrying about things, just doing the same thing every day without thinking, but if we have faith in Jesus, then we could do so much more! We can do incredible things.

Pray It

🗨️ **Say:** We are now going to have a time of prayer. I'd like you to listen to this beautiful song that you may recognise from The Prince of Egypt. The words remind us that we can do great things if we believe.

The words say 'there can be miracles when you believe, who knows what miracles you can achieve, when you believe...'

As you watch or listen to this song, I would like you to think about these two questions:

- ➔ How is your faith right now?
- ➔ What one incredible thing (it doesn't have to be big) would you like to ask Jesus to help you achieve?

As you listen you may want to sit and write it down, or maybe you want to doodle, or you can just lie down and close your eyes.

Play the song using this YouTube link:
When You Believe - The Prince of Egypt
<https://youtu.be/Gur8ccqrQ9c>

Say a short prayer at the end to close.

Explore It

Remember to share the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.