

I wonder if you have ever faced something that seems so difficult, you have no idea how you will accomplish it? Maybe it might be a task or project, maybe you might be struggling with your health or a strained relationship. Sometimes when we face hard things in life, it can feel like we are far too small or just don't have the skills to succeed, so we're sure to fail. But however we feel, we can't avoid the challenge and have to face it.

Now this particular gospel reading comes in the middle of a conversation. Jesus has just told the disciples that they need to be ready and willing to forgive people when they've done things that are wrong or have hurt them. Our Gospel reading jumps in just as the disciples reply by saying, "Lord, increase our faith!" In other words, "Lord we don't know how we can do what you ask, please help us!"

Jesus turns to them and says, "All you need is faith the size of a mustard seed and you can accomplish anything!" Look at the picture below – a mustard seed is one of the tiniest seeds on the planet and yet when it sprouts, it grows into a HUGE plant. Jesus was telling his friends that no matter how small or weak their faith seemed to be, if they would only trust in God, then God's strength would be added to theirs, and they would be able to achieve great things.

So when we face challenges in our lives, even situations that seem impossible to overcome, God encourages us to put our faith in him, to ask for his strength and to allow him to help us. That can feel impossible, but with God helping us, we can do so much more than we can ever imagine because his strength amplifies our tiny seed of faith, into a great tree.

I wonder what challenges you are facing in your life at the moment? Are you able to put your faith, however small, in God? You might be surprised at what happens!



Prayer:

Loving God, when we face challenges in our lives, and feel overwhelmed by the enormity of the task in front of us, please help us to put our faith in you and to trust that you will increase the size of our faith, so that we can achieve whatever lies before us. Be with us today and everyday, Amen.

Gospel Reading: Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!'

He replied, 'If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea," and it will obey you.'

'Suppose one of you has a servant ploughing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, "Come along now and sit down to eat"? Won't he rather say, "Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink"? Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, "We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty."'