



build. plant. grow.
the word this week



ordinary
time



lectionary
reading

Cycle C

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary #141

Reading I: Habakuk 1: 2-3, 2: 2-4

The speaker is calling out to God asking why there is such misery in the world. We often cry out to God in the same way. We must place our **faith** in God and be patient for the answer to be realized. It is true that, often in life, we are called to learn to live with the questions and allow the answers to find us. This is what a life lived in **faith** is about. We must trust the words of the prophet Habakuk that *it takes time for the fullness of the vision to be fulfilled. Wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late.*

Reading 2: 2 Timothy 1: 6-8, 13-14

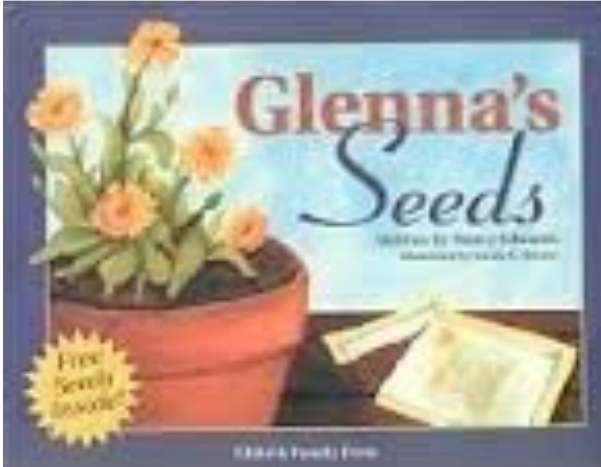
In Saint Paul's second letter to Timothy, we hear that we are always to be courageous and patient in bearing any hardship, especially any hardship connected to living out our **faith**. Ultimately we are called to patiently endure whatever comes, for the gift of **faith** is planted within us. However, it does not mature overnight but rather takes patience and nurturing on our part.

Gospel: Luke 17: 5-10

Jesus challenges his disciples to increase their **faith**. Imagining what they could do with **faith** the size of a mustard seed, Jesus speaks of incredible things. Then he describes the situation of a master and his servant. The master commands the servant to wait on him as he eats. The servant must serve and so it is with a disciple. To be a good disciple is to serve willingly and lovingly while expecting nothing in return. This may be difficult for us to understand because we have learned that, in polite society, it is necessary to say thank you in return for a kindness. The lesson here is not about thanking people but more about knowing that as a follower of Jesus, there must be an openness to doing the right thing without always being recognized for doing so. This is what is known as altruism, to do the good simply because it is the good and not in order to receive a reward for doing the good. Doing the good is its own reward.



children's
story



Glenna's Seeds

Written by Nancy Edwards

Illustrated by Sarah K. Hoctor

Publication: 2000 Child Welfare League of America

ISBN-10: 0878687882



character
education
activity

Faith is a gift planted within us by God, and just as a seed must be nurtured in order to grow, so too, must Faith

Glenna's Seeds

Glenna, a young girl, leaves Miss Rose some marigold seeds in her flower pot. When Miss Rose returns home and sees the seeds, she thinks about planting the marigolds. She realizes that she has no room for the geraniums that she bought earlier. So she leaves the geraniums on her neighbors' steps. This event creates a chain of events that leaves the whole neighborhood helping each other: giving and receiving. Glenna's gift goes full circle when Mrs. Watson gives her brother Marty fudge to share with her. Glenna's mother is very happy to hear what her daughter has done. The last line of the book reads: "so much can grow from a tiny packet of seeds." The seed of **faith** that Jesus speaks of in today's gospel is much the same. The seed of **faith** grows and matures and provides great good. Think about the fact that the seed of planted long ago have spanned the earth and the ages!

Saint Paul and Habakuk speak also of being patient and allowing the seed of **faith** to grow and knowing that just as a seed struggles to burst through the ground towards the sunlight, so too does **faith** struggle to grow in the midst of difficulties and hardship. These hardships and difficulties actually help **faith** grow. Think about the very unique places where we see plants growing. Often times they are poking their heads up through the cracks in the pavement on a freeway or side walk. Just how did that little seed make the effort to grow in that space?

Seeds of Faith

Provide the students with the following Materials:

- 2 Dixie cups each or other vessels to plant seeds
- Potting soil and some regular dirt
- Seeds (either mustard seeds or marigold seeds)
- Marker to identify the Dixie cups

Step One: Have the students mark one Dixie cup **A** and the other **B**.

Step Two: Invite the students to fill Cup **A** with potting soil and Cup **B** with regular dirt. They will then plant seeds in both Cups **A** and **B**.

Step Three: Have the students water and place Cup **A** in the sun; do not have the put Cup **B** in the sun, and only have them water it every other day.

Step Four: After some time, they will be able to notice that the seed with the rich soil and being attended to will grow far better than the one that is ignored.



case study

Look.
Feel.
Know.
Act.

What could you do today?

A friend of yours is struggling with the fact that they have asked God for something in prayer that they believe they really need. So far the answer they were wanting or expecting has not come. How would you explain the idea of **faith** and its connection with prayer? Could you tell a story about your own “waiting” for the answer to a prayer request? Can you share how God answered your prayer in a different way than you were expecting?

Look Feel Know Act

It is important to be reminded of the fact that **faith** is a gift planted by God and that it grows only if nourished and attended to. Provide the students with the words to an **Act of Faith** that is age appropriate and ask them to make a prayer card or small poster that they can design and produce for their own use. They may even have them laminated and then placed on the surface of their desk or placed somewhere they are certain to see it at some point in the day. Remembering to pray needs as many prompts as we can have at our disposal.



closing tool

In *Glenna's Seeds*, we can see that the good works of one person overflows to another and yet another. There is a parallel with this story and how **faith** can spread and grow even in the midst of difficulties and, in fact, often can grow even more rapidly when faced with hardships or difficulties. Just as Glenna shared her seeds and began a chain reaction, we can see that with **faith** there is also a chain reaction, not only in a neighborhood but in the world and throughout time. People throughout the ages have shared their **faith** with their family, friends, and strangers and if they would not have done so, we would not be talking about **faith** right here and right now.

Ask God to help you always be a person of faith and to be with you in the midst of any doubts you have in life. Likewise pray that you may have the courage to gently share your faith in God with others.



**Santa Clara
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