

OCTOBER 2, 2016  
TWENTIETH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

# taking+ faith home

*Faith gives us power to trust God.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 17:5-10	Faith the size of a mustard seed
Monday	2 Timothy 1:1-14	Thanksgiving and encouragement
Tuesday	Matthew 8:5-13	A demonstration of faith
Wednesday	Mark 11:12-24	Faith that moves mountains
Thursday	James 1:2-11	Faith produces endurance
Friday	Psalms 37:1-9	Patience and trust
Saturday	Isaiah 26:1-9	Trust in the Lord forever
Sunday	Luke 17:11-19	One leper gives thanks to God

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

God's Spirit doesn't make cowards out of us. The Spirit gives us power, love, and self-control. **2 Timothy 1:7 (CEV)**

### **SAY, PRAY, AND BLESS:**

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, give us the faith that trusts you and grants us the power to love and serve with self-control. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Thanks we give to God above, for strength and health and those we love. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ be kind and merciful to you and bless you with peace! Amen. (2 Timothy 1:2)



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## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- What people have influenced your life of faith? How did these people influence your faith?
- In 2 Timothy 1:5, St. Paul notes that the faith of Timothy came from his grandmother and mother. What does this say about how faith is formed?
- Who nurtures your faith today? Who might be nurtured by your faith?

## DEVOTIONS

Faith in God can be challenged when things are difficult, when those who act wrongly seem to succeed, and those who trust God experience difficulties. Psalm 37 affirms that the gains of the wicked will not last. Verse 4a states, "Trust in the Lord, and do good." 2 Timothy 1:7 says, "God's spirit doesn't make cowards out of us. The Spirit gives us power, love, and self-control." Make a list of the things in your life that make trust in Jesus difficult. Pray for strength and courage so that your life can be freed to serve others in faith and love.

## SERVICE

There are many people around us who serve as mustard seeds—they do many "little things" that others may not notice, but add up to a big difference. Think of someone who fits this description. Find some way to thank them for their example of faith.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In 2 Timothy 1:6, Paul mentions that he laid his hands on Timothy. This Christian ritual conveys the passing on of faith and the Spirit from person to person, just as Paul had received faith from "ancestors" (verse 3) and Timothy had received faith through his "family" (verse 5). Place your hands on another person's shoulders or head and use the words from "A Blessing to Give" as a way to support that person's faith with "power, love, and self-control."

