

November 2017



Our Lady Our Lady of Peace

Value Assembly

‘With Christ in our hearts, together we grow’

In November we will be exploring the
Value of:



Faith

Having Faith

Today I am going to give you the opportunity to reflect on the concept of 'faith'.

I am going to start by asking a question. How many of you can truly say that you have faith in yourself? By this I mean that when you are presented with a challenge, you have the confidence to know you will be successful in accomplishing it.

Sadly, we sometimes miss golden opportunities due to a lack of confidence. We may feel a little afraid of what we have to face and would rather not try at all than end up being a failure, but this is not the way to live.

The Bible sums up faith in the following way in Hebrews 11.1 (NLT):

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen.

I would now like to show you an example of such faith in action. Derek Rabelo is a Brazilian surfer. The incredible thing about Derek is that he was born completely blind, yet his family always believed that he could do anything he wanted to do despite his lack of sight.

Derek's father was a keen and very good surfer, other family members were pro surfers and so when Derek said that he wanted to surf, too, he was given a bodyboard and took to the water. Derek now spends his days surfing around the world and sharing his incredible story. 'We should all believe in ourselves and chase our dreams', he says.

Show the YouTube video Audio Adrenaline – Believer (at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILDmrVPQd98).

Having Faith and believing that
YOU CAN achieve anything!





Prayer



Prayer

Dear God,

Help us to grow in confidence and faith that we might achieve our personal goals.

Let us gain inspiration from believers such as Derek Rabelo, who, in his own words, 'lives by faith, not by sight.'

Amen.

November 2017



Our Lady Our Lady of Peace

Faith-Remembrance Day

Week 2

'With Christ in our hearts, together we grow'

Remembrance DAY



November 2017



Our Lady Our Lady of Peace
Having Faith
Week 3

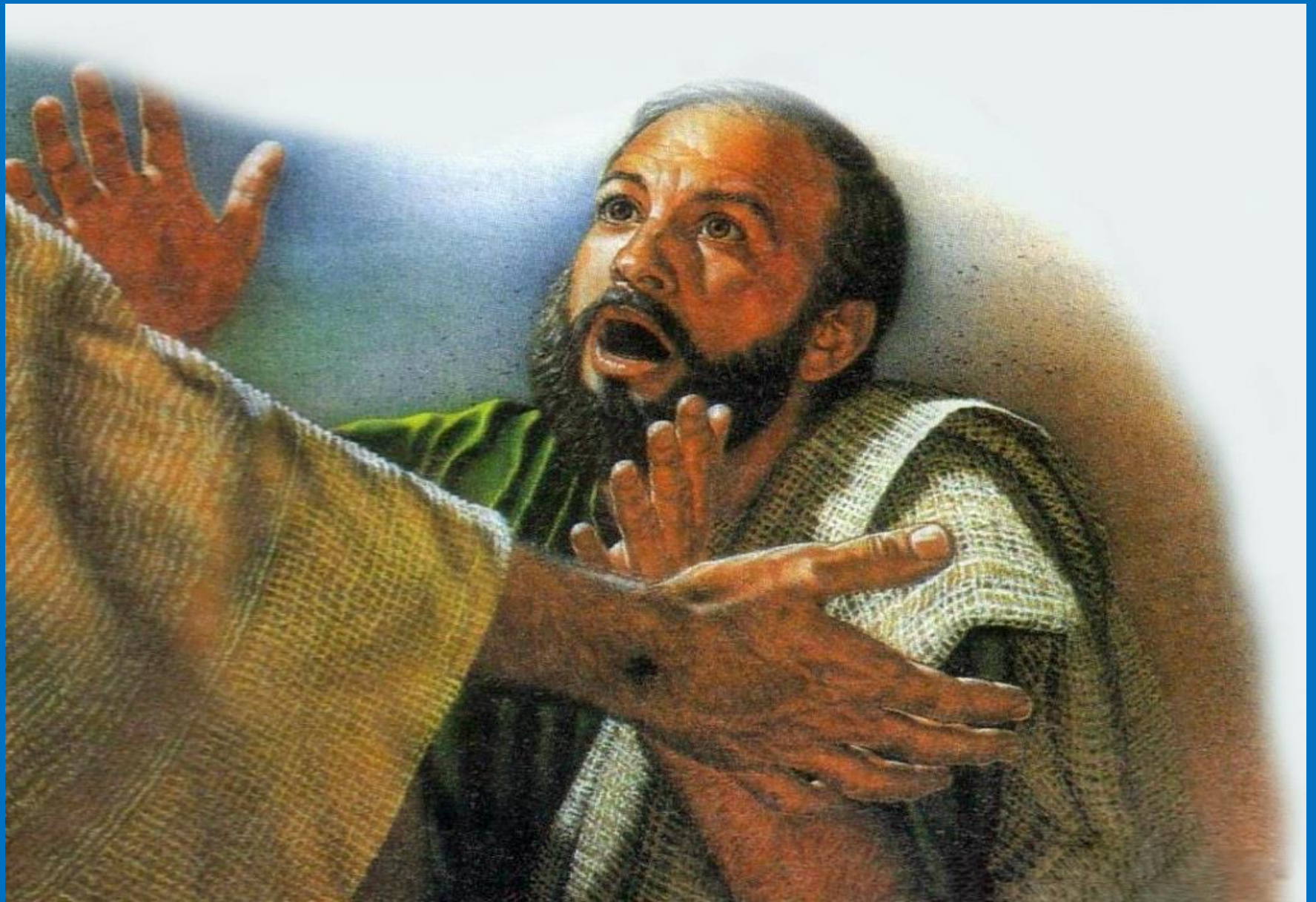
'With Christ in our hearts, together we grow'

Doubting Thomas

Ask if anyone has heard the expression 'Doubting Thomas'? Explain that Thomas was one of Jesus' disciples. On the day Jesus came back from the dead, Thomas was not there to witness it, and proclaimed that he didn't believe it had happened. A week later, Jesus appeared again. This time Thomas was present and he realized that he had been wrong.

Rather sadly, it's doubting that Thomas is famous for, although he is also recorded as the person who asked Jesus a very important question: who he was, when Jesus famously proclaimed 'I am the way, the truth and the life' – a statement that is key to the Christian understanding of Jesus.

Even sadder is that most people judge Thomas harshly for doubting. The reality is, though, that many people doubt things they have not seen, they do not believe and they do not have faith in the people who tell them.



Having Faith

In many faiths, having doubts can be perceived to be a bad thing. But why is this? Faith in God means that you are being asked to believe in something and have faith. Faith is the leap in the dark, the hope that we hold on to. It is a basic human trait, to have doubts. Faith in an unseen God and this is often difficult for all of us.

Yet down through the ages, people have held on to their faith for deep-seated reasons. There are still more people in Christian churches on Sundays in this country than at football matches, and that's not just in the summer when there are no matches! Faith continues to be very important for many other people too who don't attend organized worship, but want the important times in their lives marked by a religious ceremony.

You may have doubts about your faith from time to time. What's important is that we respect people for their belief, as it is a personal and important part of each of our lives. It is also very important in our School as we are a Catholic school and Faith is very important.

Reflection



Reflection

Think about the various problems that you face in your life at the moment.

Hold them in your hand, then turn them over and reflect on the possibilities open to you. Perhaps pray to God for help.

Perhaps there is no answer at the moment. In that case, just pop them away, and come back to them another day.

If you do have the answers, then there's no time like the present to get on with it! Or alternatively speak to someone you trust who may be able to help you.

Prayer



Prayer

Dear God

Help me to live with doubts,
with niggling insecurity.

Help me to hold on to what I believe to be
true, to let it grow and change,
and help me to always respect another
person's faith,
as I want them to respect mine.

Amen.

**With Christ in our hearts, together we
grow.**

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Faith

Week 4

'With Christ in our hearts, together we grow'

What Is Faith?

Jesus Christ Course

What Is Faith?

Describe how these images represent faith.



What Is Faith?

Describe how these images represent faith.



What Is Faith?

Describe how these images represent faith.



Image in public domain



Image in public domain



Image in public domain



Image in public domain

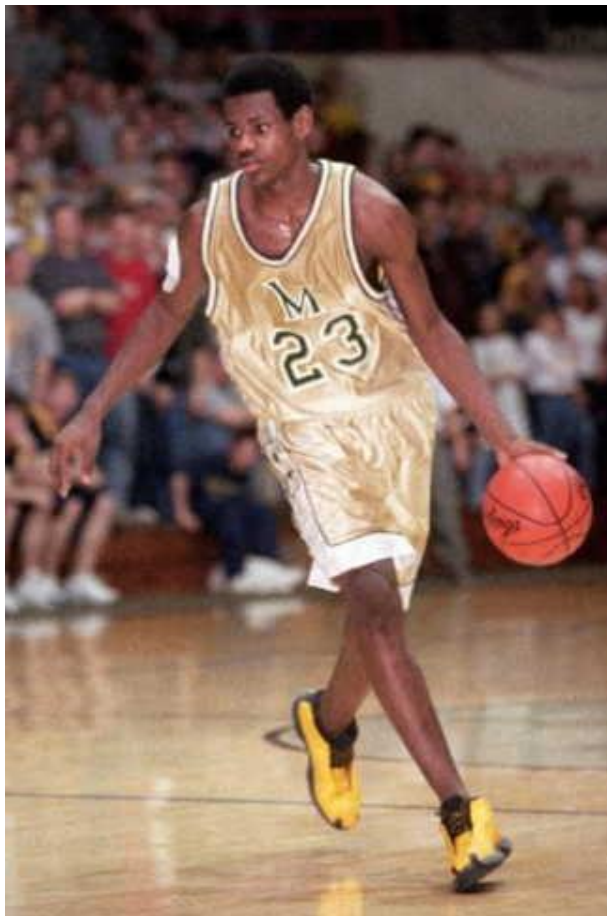
Faith

- Word from the Latin *fides*, meaning “trust” or “belief”
- A specific act or human response to Revelation
- An internal surrender of our whole self to God (recall the Greatest Commandments)
- A God-given theological virtue or habit of belief
- Something that must be practiced—with practice comes wisdom

Faith

- Building blocks of Christian life
- A journey—with some high points and some low points
- Something you can feel strongly one day and not the next
- A daily response—through daily habits or expressions of faith, it grows
- A grace that opens life to possible realities beyond the present experience

Consider these two images of NBA player LeBron James



Expressions of Faith

Faith is expressed in many kinds of beliefs and practices:

- prayer: communal and individual
- Sacraments
- service
- charity
- justice

What Are the Connections?


Faith

Religion

Belief

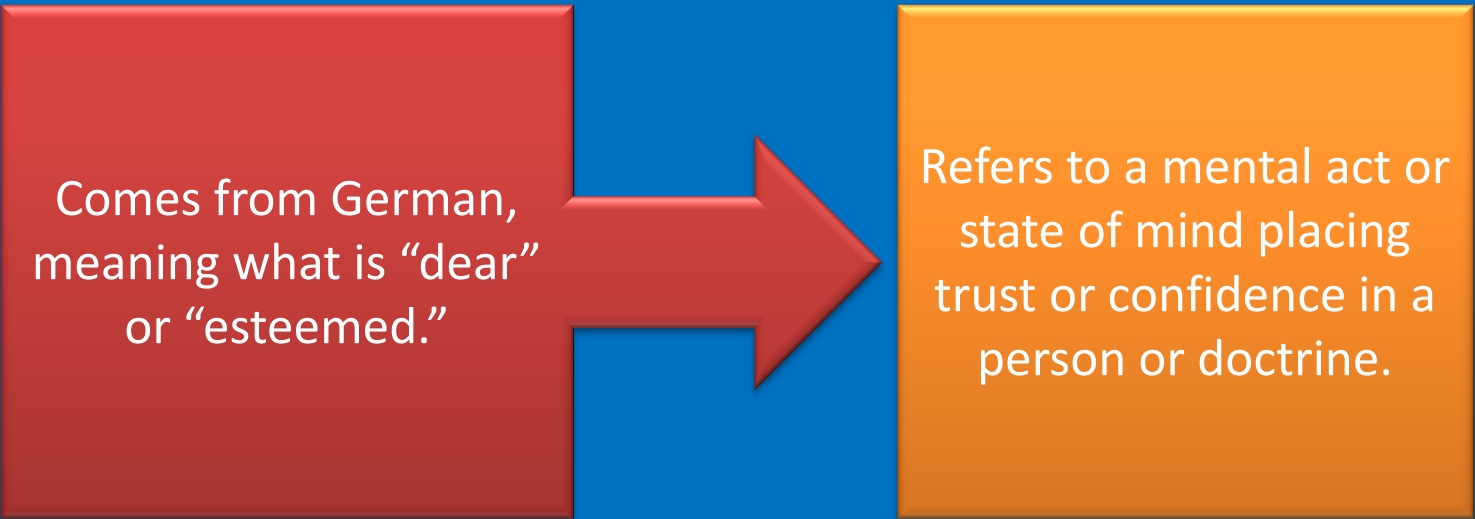
Religion

Comes from the Latin *religio*, meaning “respect for the sacred” or “reverence for the gods.”



Refers to the set of practices and beliefs followed by those who believe in and worship God.

Belief



Comes from German,
meaning what is “dear”
or “esteemed.”

Refers to a mental act or
state of mind placing
trust or confidence in a
person or doctrine.

Faith	Religion	Belief
Latin <i>fides</i> , meaning “trust” or “belief”	Latin <i>religio</i> , meaning “respect for the sacred” or “reverence for the gods”	Germanic origin, meaning what is “dear” or “esteemed”
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A specific act or human response to Revelation • An internal surrender of our whole self to God (recall the Greatest Commandments) • God-given theological virtue or habit of belief 	Set of practices and beliefs followed by those who believe in and worship God	A mental act or state of mind placing trust or confidence in a person or doctrine

God's Revelation

In faith we accept
God's Revelation.
We express that
faith in our
religious beliefs
and practices.



Faith and Religion

- Two sides of the same coin
- Cannot have one without the other
- Faith without religion = fades away
- Religious practices without faith = “going through the motions”
- Faith requires willingness.



Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord.
May it be done to me according to your word.”
(Luke 1:38)

Faith requires willingness but
it does not have to be perfect.

The Scriptures and Faith

“Simon Peter said in reply, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God’” (Matthew 16:16).

“[Peter] said to him, ‘Lord, I am prepared to go to prison and to die with you.’ But he replied, ‘I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me’” (Luke 22:33–34).

“And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18).



The *Catechism* and Faith

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, “Faith is a supernatural gift from God. In order to believe, man needs the interior helps of the Holy Spirit” (179).



The Holy Spirit

Peter, Mary, and all the faithful allow
God's Holy Spirit to work in their lives:

“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim” (Acts of the Apostles 2:1–4).



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The Mustard Seed

“And the apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith.’ The Lord replied, ‘If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to [this] mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you’” (Luke 17:5–6).



Strengthening Faith

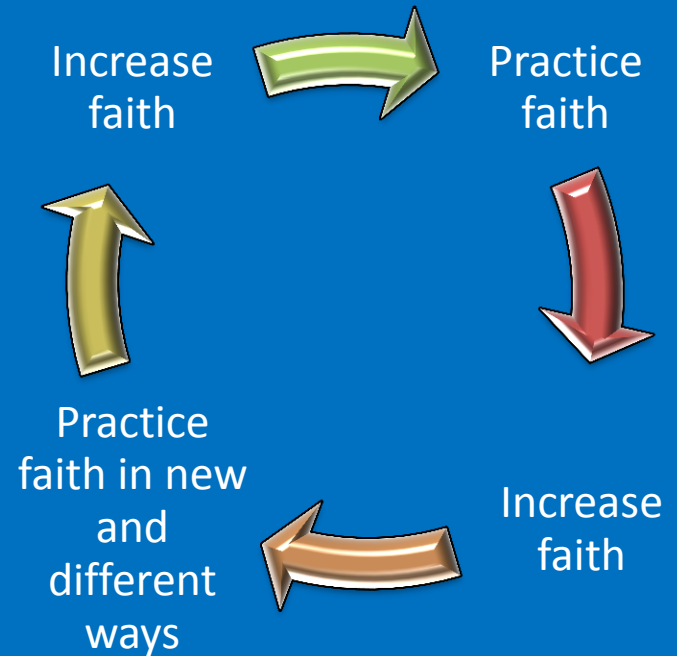
Ways to strengthen faith:

- prayer: communal and individual
- liturgy
- Sacraments
- service
- charity
- justice

Continuous Cycle

Faith is a continuous cycle. The more you practice your faith, the stronger it will grow. The firm foundation of faith will sustain you even in difficult times.

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock”
(Matthew 7:24–25).



How will you build
your foundation

