
“First Watch” Touch Points for Evangel’s Prayer Vigil team

For the week of April 28, 2013

Share with others on the Prayer Vigil throughout the week, during our Connections time on Sundays, or using our FaceBook group “First Watch Prayer Vigil.” www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=63044309096 .

This series—aimed to support our “Stepping Out in Faith—for the Sake of the Gospel” initiative—is based on *The One Year Book of Praying Through the Bible* by Cheri Fuller (Tyndale House, 2003). We will focus on specific topics that relate to faith, witness and outreach. “The driving force behind this proposal is to increase our evangelistic witness and the impact on our neighborhood and community.” (From the overview document, available at www.evbapt.org/docs/steppingOut.pdf)

Mustard Seeds and Mountains

The disciples asked Jesus privately, “Why couldn’t we cast out that [boy’s] demon?” “You didn’t have enough faith,” Jesus told them. “I assure you, **even if you had faith as small as a mustard seed** you could say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it would move. **Nothing would be impossible.**”

Matthew 17:19-20

Prayer for the Week

NOTE: *In response to our Stepping Out initiative, pray this for yourself as well as for Evangel by reading “we,” “our,” etc.*

God, the mountain of my circumstances seems so large, yet when I look to you as the source of my strength, it becomes insignificant. My faith seems small, yet when I place it in the Creator’s hands, it can **produce a greater harvest than I could ever imagine.** Lord, take my tiny seed of faith, and multiply it with your strength, wisdom, and guidance. Thank you for assuring my heart that nothing is impossible with you.

Notable Quote

Faith is to prayer what the feather is to the arrow: without faith it will not hit the mark.

J. C. Ryle (1816-1900)

Reflection

Did you know that an average-sized aspirin bottle holds more than 180,000 mustard seeds? One of those miniscule seeds, when planted in fertile soil, can produce a ten-foot bush within three months! How many times have we faced mountains and felt that our faith was small and insufficient? We might have asked ourselves how God could remove a mountain in light of the fact that our faith is so inadequate. Perhaps we’ve even considered surrendering to the circumstances that stand in our way.

When the disciples felt the sting of failure over their inability to heal [a boy (Matt. 17:10-27)], Jesus directed them to place their faith—no matter how small—in him rather than in their own abilities.

The mustard seed is a reminder to walk to the base of the mountain hand in hand with the all-powerful God. It is a tangible symbol that it is not your strength that will move the mountain; rather, it is the God in whom you place your faith that can move a mountain out of your way.

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Apply this week’s thoughts in your prayers for our “Stepping Out in Faith...for the Sake of the Gospel” initiative. If you have not seen the materials, they will be on the table in the lobby each Sunday through May, along with forms and a box for questions and suggestions prior to our May 5 town hall meeting during the LIF@Etime hour.
- Prayerfully reflect on the lessons from Sunday’s worship service, the music, Scripture, and Pastor Dave’s message “What Truth Is”* from John 18, as well as the insights gained from the LIF@Etime session on “Doing the Right Thing.” Pray for the leading of the Spirit in applying the lessons learned to your own life and as a witness to others.
- Pray for the ministry of Vacation Bible School, directed this year by Bridgette Ecklund. Pray specifically for enough volunteers and for God’s blessing on Bridgette as she organizes this year’s program.

*A podcast of the sermon will be posted on the website by Monday, along with pdf versions of the PowerPoint notes and sermon outline

Touch Points is e-mailed every Friday and normally posted on the website (www.evbapt.org) by Saturday.

Printed copies are available in the lobby on Sunday.