



A Determined Dad's Simple Faith

By Deborah Wassenberg

Here's a Father's Day lesson about a Dad determined to see his son set free. Spurgeon said, "While men have no faith, they are unconscious of their unbelief; but, as soon as they get a little faith, then they begin to be conscious of the greatness of their unbelief." A determined Dad will say, 'Help my unbelief' when seeking God's help for his kids but it is something a man can only say by faith!

YouTube Song Suggestions:

- All Things are Possible (Hillsong Kids)
- Nothing is Impossible (Planetshakers Kids)
- Yes and Amen (chapelhill kids)

Bible Story: Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Boy

Bible References: Matthew 17:14-23; Mark 9:14-29;
Luke 9: 37-45

You find visual aids for this Bible story at Free Bible Images. Use the illustrations for a PowerPoint presentation or to make Flashcards.

Visuals:

1. Dad with kid learning to ride a bike
2. Dad of the possessed boy
3. Boy convulsing
4. Scribes and disciples arguing
5. Jesus arrives
6. Dad on his knees
7. Jesus talking to disciples
8. Jesus and the Dad
9. Dad pleading
10. Boy delivered
11. Mustard seed (photograph on page 7)

Words:

1. Has your Dad ever determined to do something?
He's made up his mind to do something, and nothing is going to stop him.
Maybe he was determined to run in a marathon and had to begin training.
Maybe he was determined to win a fishing competition.
(You should have seen the one that got away!)
Maybe he is determined to grow a beard!
They're the sort of things a Dad can make up his mind to do and have fun doing.
But Dads can determine to do serious things, too.
Dad might determine to study so he can get a better job to provide for the family.
A Dad can determine to move house or build an extension to the house you're in.
Dads can be determined about what their kids are going to do, too!
They're determined that you will succeed at school.
Determined that you can ride a bike or ride without training wheels.
They're determined that you will be healthy.
Do you know the biggest thing your Dad is determined about?
Your Dad is determined for you to meet Jesus...
just like the Dad in this Bible story.
2. A Dad was looking for Jesus but couldn't find Him.
But he was determined to see his son healed.
You see, this Dad had a son who was demon-possessed.
A demon had come into the boy's life from an early age.
The demon took control of the boy's body.
It would seize the boy, smash him down on the ground, and
make him convulse and foam at the mouth.
3. Some people like to say that the boy was epileptic but that was not the case.
This was not a physical condition or a genetic disorder.
It was a demon who was determined to torment the boy.
And it would eventually kill him.
The demon had already tried to burn the boy by throwing him in the fire.
The demon had already tried to drown the boy by throwing him in the water.
That's why his desperate Dad had determined to find Jesus to ask
Him to cast the demon out of his son.
He knew Jesus had cast out a lot of demons.
4. But Jesus wasn't there!
He was on a mountain with Peter, James and John.
So the Dad asked the disciples and they decided they would pray
for the demon to come out.
They had done it before. (*Matthew 10:1; Luke 9:1*)

But this time the demon would not leave.
A large crowd gathered round.
The scribes (religious leaders) were arguing with the disciples.
They were probably making fun of them because they could not do it.

5. 'What are you arguing about?' said a voice.
It was Jesus! He had arrived and seen the argument.
He asked the scribes what they were discussing with His disciples.
The scribes did not answer.
The disciples did not say anything either.
They were probably embarrassed.
Why hadn't they been able to cast a demon out like they had before?
6. It was the Dad who cried out with a loud voice so he could be heard above the noise of the crowd.
He approached Jesus and fell to his knees.
'Lord, have mercy on my son.
He has a mute spirit.'
(The demon had taken away the boy's ability to speak.)
'And,' the Dad continued, 'it seizes him, it throws him down;
he gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid.
So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast the demon out,
but they could not.'
7. Jesus was upset and frustrated with His disciples.
'O faithless generation!' he said.
(He had said this quite a few times!)
Jesus knew that His time left on the earth was coming to an end.
The disciples would have to learn to live by faith and not by sight.
'Bring the boy to me,' He said.
They brought the boy to Jesus, and when the boy saw Jesus,
the demon looked out through the boy's eyes and saw Jesus, too.
It threw the boy into a convulsion and the boy fell on the ground,
and rolled around and foamed at the mouth.
8. Jesus looked at the Dad.
'How long has this been happening to him?'
(Jesus cares about people!)
'From childhood,' said the Dad. 'And often it has thrown him both
into the fire and into the water to destroy him.'
The boy depended on his Dad to keep him alive, didn't he?
Imagine what a careful watch the Dad had to keep on the son.
How many times he had to rescue him from an open fire or a
well or pool of water.

How tired the Dad must have felt and how sad he must have been.
But he had determined to save the life of his boy.

9. The Dad looked at Jesus.

'If You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.'
Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.'
Immediately the Dad cried out and said with tears,
'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!'
The Dad meant, 'I believe in You, Jesus, and in Your power,
but I admit I do have doubts. Is my little faith enough?'

10. Jesus rebuked the demon.

'Deaf and mute demon...'
(Jesus knew the boy was deaf, too, although no one had said anything about it!)
'I command you come out of him and enter him no more!'
The demon cried out.
It convulsed the boy and came out of him.
The boy lay lifeless.
'He's dead,' said many of the people.
But Jesus took the boy by the hand and lifted him up and the boy stood up.
He could hear!
He could speak!
He was healed!
What joy must have filled the Dad's heart!
He had determined that his son meet Jesus and be healed and it had happened.

11. Later, in private, the disciples asked Jesus, 'Why couldn't we cast the demon out?'

Jesus said, 'Because you had so little faith.
Truly, I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed,
you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move.
Nothing will be impossible for you.'
Jesus wanted the disciples to depend on Him just like that boy had
depended on his Dad.
It didn't take huge faith, just a little.
Simple faith.

Ministry to the Children:

What a wonderful Dad! He took his small amount of faith, and his boy, and determined to find Jesus. His boy's life depended on it. Your future life in Heaven depends on you meeting Jesus, too. Father God was determined that you would join Him there one day. You only need a little faith to believe that Jesus left Heaven for you. That He died on the Cross taking the sin of the whole world on Himself and that He rose from the dead. You only need a little faith to confess that you are a sinner, to ask Jesus to forgive you of your sin, and to receive Him into your life. When you do that, it only takes a little faith to believe that Jesus lives in your heart! (*Altar Call*)

Memory Verse: Mark 9:23

'If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.'

Mustard Squirt

You will need:

- Mustard squirt bottle (empty)
- Yellow paint (using real mustard is wasteful, so use diluted yellow paint instead)
- Words of the Memory Verse and reference written on cardboard and laminated (to keep as a resource)
- Blue tack
- Tape

What to do:

- Blue tack the words of the Memory Verse to a wall
- Tape a line for the children to stand behind
- Children take turns trying to squirt a word
- When a word is hit with 'mustard', it is removed and wiped clean
- When all the words have been hit and removed, children place them in the right order and read aloud together until they have memorised the verse

Game: Beat the Ball

This game is similar to rounders or softball.

You will need:

- A ball
- Four bases set in your outdoor area
- Plastic bat or paddle

What to do:

- Divide the children into two teams: one batting and one fielding.
- Only underarm throws
- The ball must be hit with within the boundary area or the hit is retaken
- The batter is **not out** if the ball is caught on the full
- When the batter hits the ball he runs around all three bases and back home, trying to beat the ball that is thrown from the field to base 3, then 2, then 1, then home.
- The last fielder to receive the ball must yell STOP
- When three children are out, the whole team is out, and batters and fielders swap

Craft: Mustard Seed Frame

Purchase or make a cardboard photo frame. Paint and decorate by gluing on mustard seeds. Inside the frame, glue an individual photo of each child. (The child could be holding a chalkboard with the Memory Verse written on it.)

