



# SPORTS IN FOCUS

Faith

Luke 17 • Lesson Eight

# ZOOM!

## READY

- How would you define “faith” to a child?
- How you define “faith” to an adult?

## SET

### Context of Luke 17

Israel’s leaders, threatened by Christ’s popularity and authority, were violently opposed to His teaching. Meanwhile, the masses, enamored with the supernatural power of Jesus, were content to enjoy His blessings, without committing to His high standards of discipleship. Still ministering in the region of Perea, Luke 17 reveals a series of lessons and parables to all those who can hear.

### Keys to Text

*Faith:* This term is from the Greek word pistis, meaning “trust” or “belief.” To have faith is to relinquish trust in oneself and transfer that trust to someone else or something else. Within the Epistles, the word pistis sometimes refers to the content of one’s faith and beliefs—God’s revelation in the Scripture. True faith, by Christ’s definition, always involves surrender to the will of God. He is teaching that both the source and the object of genuine faith is God.

## GO

### Read Luke 17:1-6

And he said to his disciples, “Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were last into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.” Increase Our Faith.” The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

1. What stood out to you in the passage? Who are the “little ones” that Jesus refers to?
2. Why did they ask for more faith?
3. How high is the standard that He set for them?

## SPORTS IN FOCUS

A day after Raiders owner Al Davis, died, Oakland came from behind to beat Houston 25-20. S Michael Huff intercepted Texans QB Matt Schaub in the end zone on the final play to seal the win. Raiders coach Hue Jackson was overcome with emotion on the sideline. Al Davis was a self-described “maverick” and one of the NFL’s big personalities. As an owner, he feuded with commissioners, coaches, and cities on his way to three Super Bowl titles. Those who grew close to him often referred to him as ‘Coach Davis’ — a tribute to his stint as head coach in the early years of the franchise and to his wealth of football expertise. “Just Win, Baby.” That was Davis’s personal motto. He and the Oakland Raiders lived by it, on the field and in the courts. Don’t expect eternal impact to be the main concern of the sports pages. Christians know what the world does not — we have to measure life by its eternal impact. Without faith it’s impossible to please God.