

# LAST MINUTE COURSE

(developed by Michel Larribeau MTh)

## NOTES FOR DISCUSSION LEADERS

Aim: 'to learn to build on life solid foundations'

### COURSE PLAN

(Jesus' commands in the 4 gospels,  
based on the chronological order of Luke's gospel)

**Title:** LAST MINUTE COURSE (27 instructions)

Aim: to learn to build on life solid foundations

*sample below for preview*

SESSION 1 - **put together on faith** (Lk 17:5-10)

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*for the rest of the course contact us*

SESSION 2 - **put together on prayer** (Lk 18:1-8)

SESSION 3 - **put together on service**  
(Mt 20:20-28 with Mk 10:35-45)

SESSION 4 - **put together on submission**  
(Mt 22:15-22 with Mk 12:13-17; Lk 20:20-26)

SESSION 5 - **put together on love**  
(Mt 22:34-40 with Mk 12:28-34)

SESSION 6 - **put together on modesty** (Mt 23:1-12)

SESSION 7 - **put together on vigilance**  
(Mt 24:1-51 with Mk 13:1-37, Lk 21:5-36)

SESSION 8 - **put together on discipleship**  
(Mt 28:16-20)

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## SESSION 1 - 'put together on faith'

### ① Read Luke 17 verses 5 to 10

#### ② to start (note; questions in **bold** and [suggested answers in italics])

- **what is Luke 17:1-4 about?**  
[the seriousness of provoking others to sin, especially children and the importance of on going forgiveness]
- **are they linked to our passage (v.5-10)?** [some commentators suggest that the request of more faith on the part of the apostles is linked to these previous verses; needing increased faith to fulfil these 2 difficult things other commentators propose that these verses are not linked but are about a new thing Luke wants his readers to know regarding Jesus' teaching]
- **has Jesus used a similar comparison for faith elsewhere?**  
[Matthew and Mark tell us that Jesus used a similar comparison for faith in 2 other separate contexts; see Mt.17:14-21 and Mk.11:20-26]
- whatever the reason for the disciples to make their request Jesus again takes the opportunity to repeat his teaching about the same aspect of **faith** [= not easy for disciples to grasp and important to Jesus]

#### ③ FAITH

- **in Lk.17:5-10 what are the 2 different aspects of faith Luke actually conveys?**

##### 1. verse 5?

- [faith in God, Luke gives us an object lesson in faith = faith in practice]
- what do we learn re faith in Hebrews 11:1-6?  
[faith is about belief in God (v.6a) and also having confidence, assurance in Him (v.1) and expectation from Him (v.6b)]
- it took faith from the disciples to make their request known to Jesus (Lk.17:5)
- **does verse 6 seem to be a rebuke?**  
[he knew their reason for asking and not the only time he would have rebuked them; 'you of little faith', expression favourite of Matthew's: 6:23-33 (worry), 8:23-27 (fear), 16:5-12 (insecurity), 17:14-21 (failure)]
- **what do you make of the following comment: 'common experiences but not commendable; still forgivable'?** [Jesus still calmed the storm]
- **are some are commended for their "great faith"?** see Mt.8:5-13 & 15:21-28
- **how is Heb.11:6-19** a summary of Abraham's journey of faith, the possibility & importance of trusting, having & growing in confidence in God?

#### ③ (faith continued)

[starting from believing in God's existence (v.6) and going on to God's different characteristics; His wisdom (v.8), His reward (v.9), His power & faithfulness (v.11), His greatness (v.12), His knowledge (v.17-18), His victory (v.19)]

- faith is not static, but a journey in learning to know God & his attributes, to know Him – the better we know the better the faith / trust

#### 2. **what is the 2<sup>nd</sup> aspect of faith in Lk 17:6-10? [faith from God]**

- Jesus' reply has 2 sections; v.6 = teaching and v.7-10 = illustration
- **what is the teaching of v.6?**

[faith as mustard seed; faith can be a journey, as seen above, but in v.6 Jesus says that faith can also be compared to just a small mustard seed

- no mention of growing into a big tree as in Lk.13:18-19 & suggested by some commentators
- so not a journey but for a single event, for the removal of 'this' mulberry tree (no doubt Jesus pointing at it) [or a 'mountain' or anything else that requires removing or needs to happen]

- **so what is this faith about?** see Lk.17:6 with Mt.17:20; Mk.11:23)

'if you have faith' [conditional, a question of having it (even small), not having a little and getting more, not automatic]

**how to know if?** See Mk 11:23 ? ['does not doubt in their heart but believe what they say will happen' = **assurance**]

'he did what he was told to do', Lk.17:9? [God's way of saying what he wants

'you can say'? [ importance of being specific, **commanding** things to happen

'it will obey' or 'it will be done for them' (Mt.17:23) = **certain promise** (see end of v.21, Mt.17) with **time lapse** (unqualified) and **God's doing** not just us

- faith listed in the gifts of the Holy Spirit; 1 Cor.12:7-11 (v.9), 1 Cor.13:2

- **what is the point of v.7 to 10 in Luke 17?** [the illustration is to ensure the **whole important humility + continuous service** from those so gifted with such faith]

#### ④ **to sum up:** counting on the help of the Holy Spirit to ...

- realise the importance of having faith in God - believing and growing in our confidence in Him
- be honest and admit any failure in fully trusting Him
- understand the different aspect & potential of faith as a mustard seed
- cooperate with the Holy Spirit in speaking out whenever gifted with such faith