

How far do you trust God?

Sermon for Sunday, June 24, 2007
(our annual outdoor service)
by Bruce Fraser

Scripture: Mark 10:13-16 and others

1) What is “trust”?

When I say, “I trust you,” what does that mean? *Ask for responses, and write them on flip chart in column 1.*

Possibilities:

- I believe what you tell me
- You won’t hurt me
- You will help me
- I can count on you; you keep your commitments
- I don’t have to worry about what you’ll do
- I can let you look after something for me (even something extremely valuable), and know that you will take good care of it.

Contrast those thoughts with what it means when I say, “I don’t trust you.” *Ask the group for help in changing all the above statements into “don’t trust.” Write these in column 2. Possibilities:*

- I *don’t* believe what you tell me
- You *might* hurt me
- You *might not* help me
- I *can’t* count on you; you *don’t* keep your commitments
- I *worry* about what you’ll do
- I *can’t* let you look after something for me (even something *only slightly* valuable), *because I don’t know* that you will take good care of it.

2) What the Bible says about trusting God

Mark 10:13-16, New Living Translation:

One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could touch them and bless them, but the disciples told them not to bother him. But when Jesus saw what was happening, he was very displeased with his disciples. He said to them, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you, anyone who doesn’t have their kind of faith will never get into the Kingdom of God.” Then he took the children into his arms and placed his hands on their heads and blessed them.

Think of a young child (if one is present, ask to pick up her/him in my arms to illustrate). He or she completely trusts the parents. There is no fear of them — unless perhaps they make a loud noise.

That is the kind of trust and faith in God that we need.

3) Exercise our trust

“We’ve been talking about trust. Now we’re going to put it into practice. We’re going to go on a trust walk.”

Ask everyone to find a partner whom they trust. Give each pair a blindfold. One partner puts on the blindfold. The second one leads the first around the field (put out some obstacles). The climax is to lead the partner in running. Let both partners have a turn.

Trusting God would be like running as fast as you can while you are blindfolded — and not worrying.

4) Let’s put our trust in God

What if we take those statements of trust, and say them to God? Let’s try that and see (back to column 1; read them together aloud, addressed to God.)