

Not by Sight

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

—2 Corinthians 5:7



We can look out at all that God created and know that He is there. But true faith is believing even though you can't see. As we spend time with God and grow closer to Him, we will have all the proof we need. (Remember Hebrews 11:1?)

Thomas, a disciple of Jesus, knew that Jesus had died on the cross. But when Thomas heard that Jesus was alive again, he said, "If I don't see the mark of the nails in His hands, . . . I will never believe!" (John 20:25). And who could blame him? It was quite a story!

Then Jesus Himself went to Thomas and showed him the marks in His hands. And Thomas believed. Jesus told Thomas, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Those who believe without seeing are blessed" (John 20:29).

Jesus *can* prove Himself to you. But let's be blessed by believing without seeing!



Tell me about it:

What is one thing about Jesus that you think is hard to believe?



Think about it:

Think about all the things you know about God that are true. Why is this one thing different?



DO IT!

Talk to God now and ask Him to help you believe without seeing.

Strength and Courage

Be strong and courageous, all you who put your hope in the LORD.

—Psalm 31:24

What are you afraid of? Thunderstorms? Math tests? The big dog next door? Well, you don't have to be afraid. There may be a lot of scary things in this world, but God is bigger than all those things. And when you put your hope and faith and trust in Him, He becomes a part of you. He lives inside you. And "the One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4:4).

When you put your hope in God, you become braver. You become stronger. And everything else becomes a lot less scary.



Tell me about it:

What are you afraid of?



Think about it:

How does God, the Creator of the universe, compare to those things?



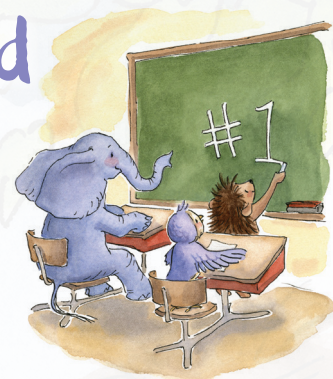
DO IT!

Talk to God for a minute. Tell Him that you put your hope in Him, and ask Him to give you the strength and courage to face the things that scare you.



The Most Important Command

He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and most important command." —Matthew 22.37-38



Before we can keep God's commands, we need to know what they are. We can do this by reading our Bible and spending time with God each day.

However, one man in the Bible had the chance to ask Jesus about God's commands face-to-face. And by reading our Bible, we are able to hear the answer for ourselves. The man asked Jesus which of God's commands was the greatest. And Jesus replied with the words, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

The man who had asked the question was an expert in the law. But Jesus didn't point the man to a list of rules. He pointed him to God. To *loving* God before anything else. And doesn't that make perfect sense? Because when we do that one, most important command, all the others just fall into place.



Tell me about it:

Think about all the rules you know God wants us to follow.



Think about it:

How does the greatest commandment cover all the other rules?



DO IT!

Make a list of rules. Write, "#1: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." The end. Follow that one rule today and every day.