



# faithful waiting

## Children's Story

Cycle C, Proper 22

**Title:** Faithful Waiting  
**Author:** Barrette Plett  
**Church:** Bethel Mennonite Church,  
Winnipeg MB  
**Text:** Luke 17:5-10 and  
1 Timothy 1:1-14  
**Theme:** Faith and the rewards of faith.

### Needed:

Some seed packages, ripe vegetables, an acorn, and a picture of an oak tree.

### Wondering Questions:

- I wonder if Joshua ever thought his acorn wouldn't grow.
- I wonder how Joshua had enough faith to keep waiting and taking care of his acorn.
- I wonder what other things are worth waiting and caring for patiently.
- I wonder what kinds of seeds God wants us to plant and care and wait for.

### Gathering Activity:

*(Welcome the children and show them the seed packages, vegetables, the acorn, and the picture of the tree as they come forward and find their places to sit.)* Good morning. I showed you these seeds and vegetables to help you get ready to listen to today's stories. Our story today is from two places in the Bible, from Luke 17 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy. *(Show them the places in your Bible.)* They aren't about vegetables; they talk about having faith and growing in our faith. When we plant vegetable seeds, we have to have faith that they will grow, and we have to wait until they grow, so that's why our children's story is about seeds today. Let's get ready to listen. Make sure you are settled into a comfortable position. Get really quiet and think about being here together to worship and learn about God. Know that God is here among us, helping our faith grow. (pause) Are you ready? Here is the story.

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## Story:

A long time ago, there was a Sunday School class, in which the teacher asked the children to bring special things in to class. One Sunday in spring, the teacher asked everyone to bring a seed that they would plant. The teacher said that they would plant the seeds and watch them grow.

The next week, every child brought a seed. Most of them brought vegetable seeds, but one boy, Josh, brought an acorn. They all planted the seeds in the ground behind the church.

Every Sunday after that, they would go and water their little garden.

Before they left, they would pray and thank God for helping their

seeds grow. After one week, two little plants had started growing. They were peas. The next week, all the other seeds, except for Joshua's acorn, had started to grow. There were pea plants, cucumbers, and even broccoli. The children were really excited about the broccoli because it was such a curly plant. As summer got closer, the plants started to get bigger. Some of them even had blossoms. Only Joshua's plant had not sprouted. Some of the other children thought that his acorn probably wouldn't grow, and they told Joshua to plant something else like radishes. But Joshua's teacher encouraged him by saying, "No, God will help this seed to grow, too. But this one will take faithful waiting."

When Sunday School ended for summer, Joshua offered to take care of their garden during July and August. Every week, Joshua went to the little garden. He carefully pulled all the weeds and watched closely for any sign of his acorn sprouting. When fall came, and Sunday School started up again, the class harvested the vegetables from their garden, but Joshua's seed still hadn't grown. Joshua's teacher and Joshua winked at each other and

said, "Just wait and see, God will help this seed grow."

One Sunday morning, the next spring, when Joshua walked by the garden on his way to church, he saw something green. He stopped and looked. Right in the spot where he had planted his acorn last year, there was a little green shoot coming out of the ground. Joshua ran proudly to his Sunday School teacher and said, "See! Look! I knew God would make my seed grow, too!" The Sunday school teacher gave him a hug and took the whole class out to see the young tree shoot.

Every Sunday for the rest of that spring and summer, Joshua watered his little tree patiently. By the time fall came, it was almost up to his knee. He piled some leaves up around it to keep it warm in the winter. The next spring, he watched proudly as its leaves turned green and the tree kept growing. It grew slowly, but it kept growing every year. Every summer, Joshua would take care of his tree, until it was taller than he was! God's sunshine and rain kept helping that tree grow for many, many years. Joshua grew, too. One spring day, a grown up Joshua showed his Sunday school children the oak tree and helped them climb and sit in its branches. That summer, they came and sat in its shade after church. That fall, they collected its acorns and planted another oak tree. It had taken a long time, but Joshua's little acorn had turned into a strong, tall tree!

## Prayer:

Dear God. Please help us to have faith when it feels like we have to wait a really long time for things. Thank you for people, like the Sunday School teacher, who encourage us in our faith and help us wait. Please help us be like Joshua who kept caring for and believing that his seed would grow. Help us be good helpers and care givers. Amen.