

*“Squirrels, Nuts, and Faith”: A Group Devotional on Matthew 17:20*  
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**Squirrels, Nuts, and Faith: A Group Devotional on Matthew 17:20**  
By the 2015-2016 national leadership team of AB GIRLS

*This devotional was written as a “round-robin,” in which each member of the team wrote a portion and passed it along to the next.*

Squirrels run and jump from tree to tree all year long, scurrying around to find a precious nut. God has given them a great work ethic, strength, and determination. The squirrel, with the ability to persevere and stay motivated towards the goal, always gets the nut!

You can do anything through Jesus Christ. If you have faith and believe in him, he will guide you throughout your journey. Maybe you can’t just stare at a mountain all day, tell it to move, and expect it to move, but you can definitely change someone’s heart for the better if you have faith.

Just like our faith in God, it is also important to have faith in each other, as a team, to best carry out God’s plan. Here’s a faith and trust building team exercise:

Back-to-Back Drawing

The back-to-back drawing exercise improves communication among team members, which can help build unity and confidence in others. Divide into groups of two. Instruct pairs to sit back-to-back on the floor and provide one girl with a blank notepad and drawing utensil, and the other with a picture. The team member with the picture must describe it to the member with the notepad who will then draw the picture based on the instructions she’s given. This is an eye-opening exercise that can identify problems in communication that may make unity and trust difficult.

I think as Christians we can tend to lose faith easily. We want certain things to happen at a certain time and when they don’t happen, we get easily discouraged. But if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, anything can happen. Our faith in God is very powerful. The smallest amount of faith can do anything for us.

*This devotional was written as a group project by members of the 2015-2016 national leadership team: Celine David (convenor), Kennedy Cooper (coordinator of events), Meghan Cubbison (coordinator of missions), and Ngun Hlei Tial (coordinator of promotions). For information about the NLT, including downloadable application forms, visit [www.abwministries.org/NLT](http://www.abwministries.org/NLT).*