

Read Mark 9.38-50

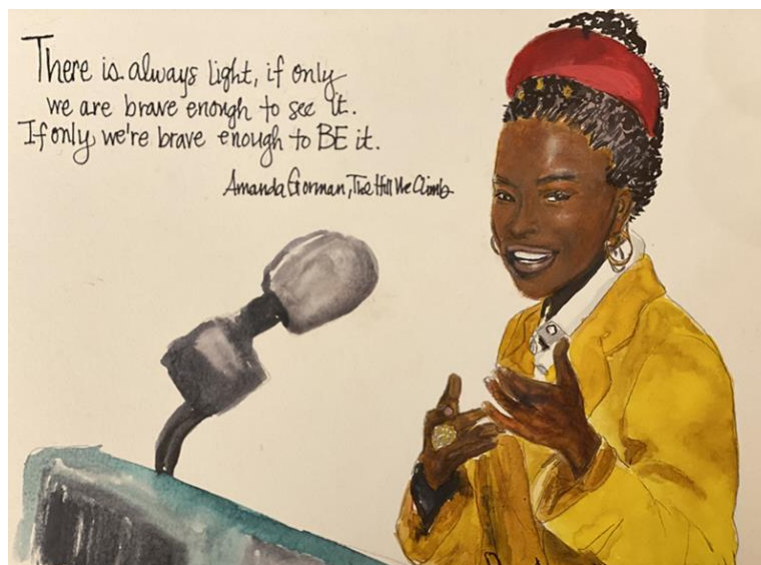
*You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.*

The disciples were unhappy to find that other people were calling themselves followers of Jesus. Perhaps the disciples were jealous of them. The disciples wanted to be seen as Jesus's special friends. They didn't want others to be part of that group. Have you ever felt like this? Have you had a special friend that you didn't want to share with others?

Jesus reminded the disciples that they should encourage anyone who wants to be close to God. He said that it was wrong to be a "stumbling block". In other words, it is wrong to create obstacles for anyone who wants to get to know God. What kinds of things create stumbling blocks for those who want to believe in Jesus? When someone new comes to church, do we make them welcome?

Jesus wants us to see God in each other and in ourselves. How easy do you find it to see God in others? It may be easy with your friends or the people you see at church. But what about the people you don't like? Or what about people who seem strange and scary? Sometimes the hardest thing is to see God in ourselves. We often find it easier to focus on what is wrong with ourselves than what is good. Think about how God is working in you and through you. Jesus showed us that each person is important to God, each person is loved by God. How can you follow Jesus and practise seeing God in others and in yourself?

**Activity**



This is a picture based on a quote from Amanda Gorman who wrote a poem for the inauguration of President Biden in the United States earlier this year. Make a copy of the quote and illustrate it in your own way. Think about how you can see the light of God in yourself and in others.

**Prayer**

God, we thank you for loving us every day,  
thank you for all you send our way.  
Help us to see you in people we meet,  
to be helpful and kind, to be your hands and feet. Amen.