

I BELIEVE!

Intent of the Stories of Kumar and Sunil

- ✓ *Check the difference between “believe” and “beliefs”*
- ✓ *Do we really believe in God or we have just some beliefs?*
- ✓ *How much do we believe in God?*

Kumar

Kumar was a very religious minded man. Absorbed in the presence of God, he spent hours in prayer.

On one occasion, Kumar and his friend Dilip climbed a very high mountain. The scenery was beautiful. Both friends, for hours on end prayed and praised God.

While coming down the steep path, Kumar stumbled, lost hold of the ground and rolling down towards the precipice was lost sight of.

All of a sudden, as if by miracle, Kumar found himself clinging for dear life to some branches of a tree bulging out from a crevice in the cliff. Terrified, Kumar prayed to God: "Oh God, help me! Hellppp me! I believe in you. Please, save me!"

Then, coming from nowhere, a mysterious voice was heard: "Do you believe in me, Kumar? Do you really believe that I can save you?" Kumar cried out "Yes, yes, Lord! I do believe"

Sternly, the voice was heard again: "Then, open your hands and let go!" In a panic, Kumar screamed: "What? Open my hands and let go!? Oh. no my God!"

Sunil

Once upon a time, a mason was working in an underground cellar. It was dark down there. The only opening to the outside world was a man-hole in the ceiling of the cellar through which a small patch of bright blue sky could be seen.

Outside, in the bright sun light, next to the man-hole, Sunil, the mason's little son was playing. Coming close to the mouth of the manhole, Sunil peeped in. All he saw was pitch darkness. He shouted: "Dad, where are you? I can't see you!"

"I am here," his dad replied, "close to you; I can see you very well. Come on, darling, leap inside the hole. I am here. I'll hold you in my arms."

Terrified, the child cried: "But Dad, I am afraid! I am scared. I can't see you. It's so dark" His Dad replied: "Trust me, dear, I am here .I'll hold you in my arms. Jump, jump dear"

Sunil closed his eyes, and trusting in his Dad, he jumped into the dark and let go! In a split second, he found himself being hugged in his Dad's loving arms!

Point's for Reflection and Discussion

1. Did Kumar really "believe" in God? Why?
2. What did his clinging to the branch mean?
3. What's the core, the heart of "belief"? What does it imply? Explain.
4. Where do you place your faith and belief? In the heart or in the intellect.
5. What's the difference between "**believe** and "**beliefs**"?
6. What is the value of our "beliefs"?
7. Did Sunil believe in his dad?
8. What lessons we learn form the way Kumar and Sunil behaved?
9. Are there some "branches" in your life to which you cling for dear life? What are they? Are you ready to let them ago? Why?
10. Are you prepared to leap into the dark pit for the sake of God?
11. Mention some words and deeds of Jesus wherewith he showed his true belief in God his Father?

Thoughts Helpful for Short Teaching or Input

- To believe in God is not just an intellectual assent to a set of truths and doctrinal propositions.
- Often enough, we assent to all the articles – the beliefs - of the "I Believe" without truly and genuinely "believing and trusting" God!
- Truth and doctrine is one thing, belief is another.
- To believe in God implies a total "self-surrender" of oneself to Him. . It demands an unconditional trust in Him.
- The act of faith is not a purely intellectual exercise. We believe with our hearts. We truly believe only those we love!
- To believe in God, is an act of love. Faith follows the logic of the heart.
- Those who truly believe in God, though they may not know all the truths of our faith, will be saved! Not the other way about.
- Our belief, our faith is tested through suffering and trial...
- First, we have to surrender ourselves to God, then believe in Him