

Like Jesus: The Gospel of Mark

A study for Community Groups to use the week of June 28th

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Series Guide** to complete foundational questions in the book for week 5 using the scripture below.

Week 20: Mark 9:14-29

Overview

Mark doesn't just tell us what Jesus did; he shows us who Jesus is in a way that forces us to rethink the world we're living in and the stories we're being sold every day.

"The unbelieving generation included the father and the crowd. The nine disciples could not exorcize the demon because of their weak faith (cf. v. 29). Jesus' first rhetorical question expressed frustration that His presence with them had not resulted in greater faith (cf. 4:40; 6:50, 52; 8:17-21). His second question reveals the heavy load that their unbelief placed on Him (cf. 3:5; 8:12)." - Constable Notes

Questions

*In the Series Guide you will find basic questions we want all to use as they begin to look at the passage. Questions such as; *Who have you had the opportunity to BLESS this week? What does this passage reveal about God? About people? About the life He has planned for us?* These additional questions relate to the passage specifically for your benefit.

- The father honestly tells Jesus, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" (v.24). He brings both his faith and his doubts to Jesus. Where do you most relate to this father right now? What situation in your life requires you to trust Jesus even when you're struggling to believe?
- The disciples had seen Jesus perform miracles, had been sent out in His authority, and had successfully ministered before. Yet in this moment they fail, and Jesus says, "This kind can come out only by prayer" (v.29). Based on the passage, why do you think the disciples couldn't cast out the spirit? What does Jesus' response teach us about the difference between relying on our own abilities and depending on God? What role can prayer have in helping us with that?
- Everyone in this story had reached the end of themselves. The father couldn't fix his son. The crowd couldn't help. The disciples couldn't solve the problem. Their need became the doorway to Jesus' power. What is an area of your life where you've been forced to admit, "I can't"? How might God be using that weakness to teach you deeper trust and dependence on Him rather than yourself?