

Small Group Bible Studies

The Call to Discipleship - Faith (Mark 9:14-29; 11:20-25)

1. Before reading the passages discuss together what you think faith is. Can you think of any scriptures which help us to understand what faith is? (e.g. Hebrews 11:1) Write down some possible definitions of faith.

Read Mark 9:14-2 In Mark 9, some of Jesus disciples were in a sticky situation. They had been asked to heal a demon-possessed boy but for some reason, they had failed.

2. Do you think the disciples were surprised that the healing had failed? (see Mark 6:7-13 to help your answer and note that Mark 6 comes before Mark 9!)

Even though they had driven out many demons before, the disciples were unable to succeed here. I can imagine that the teachers of the law were really enjoying the ensuing argument. Then Jesus arrives on the scene.

3. Jesus calls them 'an unbelieving generation' (v19). Why? Do you think Jesus is being too hard on them?

4. What does Jesus say about the one who believes? (v23). Think for a moment – do you really believe what Jesus says here?

5. Twice in this passage 'unbelief' is mentioned. How can unbelief interfere with faith? What else can interfere with faith? (to help, consider Peter walking on the water in Matthew 14:22-33. Peter had faith when he looked at Jesus, but unbelief when he looked at the wind and waves.)

Unbelief has the power to interfere with faith. Our faith doesn't need to be big (ref: mustard seed), but there are many things that can get in the way of our faith being effective.

6. Read v25-27. When Jesus commanded the spirit to come out it looked as if it had killed the boy. Despite this, Jesus continues to believe. Would you have continued to believe even if what you could see with your eyes told you to doubt?

7. How does this help us to have faith in God's promises even when they seem to contradict what we experience?

8. See v29. Nowhere in this passage do we see Jesus praying. What does he mean by saying "this kind can come out only by prayer"? (hint – prayer is spending time with God).

Read Mark 11:20-25

9. According to v23, who commands the mountain to move? Who does the moving? What does Jesus mean by a 'mountain'?

10. What is Jesus promising here and what are the conditions? (v23-25)

Taking Action

Do I really believe Mark 9:23 and 11:22-25?

Am I willing to believe even when everything I see around me tells me to doubt?

As a homegroup, how can we help each other develop the kind of faith that walks on water and heals the sick without doubting?

My Action Plan – write it down here!