

Faith's Power over Darkness

Discussion Questions for Mark 9:14-29

Open It

1. When was the last time you felt inadequate to do a job you had to do?
2. In what situation have you done something that you thought was impossible?

Explore It

1. What was the setting of the events in this story? (9:14)
2. How did the people react when they saw Jesus? (9:15)
3. What did Jesus ask the crowd and the teachers of the law? (9:16)
4. What were the people arguing about? (9:17)
5. What had the evil spirit done to the boy it possessed? (9:17–18)
6. Why were the disciples unable to cast the demon out of the boy? (9:19)
7. How did Jesus feel at this point? (9:19)
8. What was the evil spirit's response to Jesus? (9:20)
9. What was the boy's life like before Jesus healed him? (9:21–22)
10. How were prayer and faith related in this situation? (9:22–23)
11. What problem did the father need to overcome? (9:24)
12. When did Jesus cast the demon out? (9:25–26)
13. How did Jesus treat the demon-possessed boy? (9:24–27)
14. What necessary step had the disciples failed to take in this situation? (9:28–29)
15. Why did Jesus want to avoid the crowds of people? (9:30–31)
16. What news did Jesus repeat privately to the disciples? (9:31)
17. What frightened the disciples? (9:31–32)

Get It

1. How do you think Jesus felt about His disciples in this situation?
2. How should we pray when we feel inadequate?
3. In what ways do you think we are an "unbelieving generation" like the people of Jesus' day?
4. What difference does it make that "everything is possible for him who believes"?
5. In what area of your life do you struggle with doubt?
6. What can we learn from the father's example in this story?
7. How has God helped you overcome your unbelief in the past?

8. In what areas of life do you think we fail to see success because we do not pray?
9. How can you become more dedicated to prayer?

Apply It

1. About what in your life will you pray every day this week? When?
2. What concrete action can you take today to show a commitment to prayer?