**Teen & Adult Discussion- August 24, 2025**

**Primary Scripture**

Mark 10:46-52

**Secondary Scripture**

Matthew 17:14-20

Dear parents,

We just wrapped up the four-lesson series “A Faith of My Own,” where students explored how to nurture a faith that lasts.

In the final session, we compared two passages, Mark 10:46-52 and Matthew 17:14-20. Both focus on the power of faith but in very different ways. In Mark, Jesus heals Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, saying, “Your faith has healed you.” In Matthew, the disciples are unable to cast a demon out of a boy because they “don’t have enough faith.” By comparing these accounts, students explored how even a little faith can unlock Jesus’ amazing power in our lives.

Sometime this week, talk with your teenager about this last lesson. You can use any or all of these questions to get the conversation started:

* What are some ways you’ve experienced the power of faith in your life?
* When has something seemed impossible to you, and how did you approach it?
* Respond to this statement: Faith is still powerful, even if your prayers aren’t answered exactly how you want.

Thank you for your prayer support for our youth ministry. Have an amazing week!

This sermon clarifies Jesus's difficult teaching on divorce in Mark 10, arguing that it’s not a legalistic trap but a**call to grace**. Jesus is being tested by the Pharisees, who are trying to get him to condemn Herod, but Jesus redirects them to God’s original design for marriage as a "one flesh" union.

While Jesus is serious about marriage, His primary message is one of grace. The sermon points to the verses immediately following, where Jesus welcomes the "little children," symbolizing that His forgiveness is for everyone, including those with broken relationships.

The core of the speech reveals that Jesus is confronting the disciples' constant obsession with "greatness." Marriage is not a measure of personal worth. Instead, it is a picture of **Christ’s sacrificial love for His bride, the Church.** The ultimate point is that whether a marriage succeeds or fails, our identity and salvation are found not in our human relationships, but in the unconditional love and grace of Jesus.

Questions for discussion or reflection this week.

1. Why is it so difficult to speak about personal failures, especially divorce, today?
2. Read Mark 10:1-16. The Pharisees tried to use the scriptures on divorce as a “clobber verse” against Jesus.  In what ways have we, or people we know, used scripture to judge others instead of showing grace?
3. Jesus teaching on marriage with the disciples contrasts their pursuit of greatness.  How do you think our modern culture’s focus on success and perfection influences our view of marriage and relationships?
4. Read Ephesians 5:21-33.  Marriage is a reflection of Christ and the Church. What does this mean to you, and how does viewing a marriage in this light change the way you might approach it, either your own or someone else's?
5. Jesus welcoming the children is similar to us as the church welcoming those who have experienced "failure." How can our household be more welcoming to people who feel they have failed or been pushed away from God or the church?

****