

Gospel of Mark

Everything Is Possible

Mark 9:14-29

Opener: Share a light-hearted story about a time when you went into a situation confidently but failed miserably.

Read Mark 9:14-29

1. What is at the center of the argument between the teachers of the law and Jesus' disciples? What might they have been arguing about?
2. What about the situation caused Jesus to lament that they are an unbelieving generation? How is a lack of faith being demonstrated?
3. In verse 21, the man says, "But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." Jesus questions the "if you can" part of the request. Why? What is wrong with it?
4. Read Hebrews 11:6. What is faith? How is faith expressed in how we ask God for help and how we carry out Jesus' mission?
5. The man is receptive to Jesus' correction of his lack of faith and expresses that he does believe, but also that he needs Jesus' help to overcome his unbelief. How well can you relate to this man's struggle between faith and unbelief? Where is the tension between faith and doubt the greatest for you?
6. Once alone with Jesus, his disciples asked why they couldn't drive out the evil spirit. Jesus explained that the spirit they encountered could only be driven out by prayer. Why is prayer such a difference-maker?
7. What reflections do you have about the place of prayer in your life? How do you want to express your faith more through prayer?
8. Are there some areas in your life where you recognize that you have been relying on yourself to be fruitful for God instead of first and foremost asking him to work through you? If so, where and how can you shift to being God-reliant in those areas?

Live What You Have Learned: What is the Holy Spirit leading you to do in response to what you have learned today in God's Word?