



## Help My Unbelief!

Text: Mark 9:14-29

**Context:** Last week we climbed up the mountain and got a glimpse of Jesus' glory and the disciples saw "the Kingdom of God come with power" (9:1). Now the mountain experience is behind us. While they were gone trouble was brewing below with a rowdy crowd and a desperate father. How does unbelief impact belief? Let's see how Jesus uses this event to help the disciples grow in faith in the midst of unbelief.

### Read Mark 9:14-29\*

#### 1) Jesus was frustrated by unbelief, but still compassionate. (Mark 9:14-19)

*Can you hear your parent's voice? "Didn't I just clean this room!?"* What frustrates you about people? Religious people? How can Jesus be frustrated and still be compassionate ("Bring him to Me!")?

#### 2) Jesus has compassion and helps a father's unbelief. (Mark 9:20-27)

Why did the father doubt Jesus' ability to help him? Does verse 23 mean anything is possible? Why or why not? How does Jesus' response to the father encourage you?

#### 3) Jesus encouraged the disciples to rely on God through prayer. (Mark 9:28-29\*)

The disciples were previously authorized to cast out demons (Mark 3:15 and 6:7), so why were they not able to handle this demon? Read the parallel text in Matthew 17:19-21. How does this passage help us understand why Jesus encouraged the disciples to pray?

#### **BIG IDEA: Jesus helps us in the midst of our unbelief. (Mark 9:23 and 24)**

Belief and unbelief can co-exist – what a paradox. Jesus didn't expect the father to overcome his doubts. The presence of the desperate father's unbelief didn't cause Jesus to disregard him. He had compassion on him and his son. It's up to us to trust Jesus in the midst of our doubts, fear and unbelief.

What are some areas in your life where you struggle with unbelief?

How does your unbelief hinder you from truly relying on Jesus?

How can the group help you trust Jesus in the midst of your unbelief this week?

#### Next Week's Passage: Mark 9:30-50 (Discipleship & Greatness)

---

\* Don't get sidetracked by the demon or "this kind" in this passage. While demons can be an interesting distraction it's not the point of the text. Instead focus on the "Big Idea."