



## The Mustard Seed

Matthew 17:14-23

### Kicking It Off:

Discuss any football teams you're rooting for this season. Can you share an example of when a passion in your life came close to becoming an idol? How do we recognize the warning signs?

### Key Objectives:

We have three key objectives to guide our discussion:

#### 1. Facilitate Self-Reflection on Personal Idols

The first objective is to get group members to reflect on areas in their own lives where they might be placing something or someone above God. This could be through personal anecdotes or examples shared during the discussion. The idea is to lead participants to recognize the dangers of idolatry, even in seemingly innocent passions like sports or relationships, and inspire them to reprioritize their commitment to God.

#### 2. Deepen Understanding of True Faith

The second objective is to foster a nuanced understanding of faith—emphasizing that it's not just about quantity but quality. Through discussing the paradox of the mustard seed and the mistakes of the disciples, the leader should aim to help group members appreciate the need for faith to be directed towards a complete understanding of Jesus and God's divine nature.

#### 3. Promote Trust in God's Plan

The final objective is to encourage group members to trust in God's plan, even when it doesn't align with their own expectations or understanding. Through discussing the disciples' distress and sharing personal experiences, the leader should aim to build a community where members feel supported in placing their trust in God's wisdom over their own human perspectives.

### Discussion:

1. Why do you think the disciples couldn't heal the boy in Matthew 17?
2. What does Jesus mean when he talks about a "faithless and twisted generation"?
3. Why isn't any kind of faith good enough? How does Moses's experience with the Israelites relate to this?
4. What do you think Jesus means when he says faith the size of a mustard seed can move mountains? How does this relate to the concept of right kind of faith?
5. How do you react when God's plan doesn't align with yours? Why is it dangerous to create our own version of God's plan? Share an experience where you had to choose between your perspective and trusting God's.
6. How has the church community helped you during tough times or significant life decisions? Share about a time when you felt the church community supported your alignment with God's calling.

### Reminders:

- The Small Group Leader Meeting will be Sunday 9/24 after service. Lunch will be provided. For current and new leaders.