

**KEY SCRIPTURES – MARK 9:14-29**

**This Week's BIG IDEA**

Possibly the most well-known verse within this week's passage is the following: "I believe, help me in my unbelief". It is certainly a phrase I think most Christians can identify with, especially if we have been following Jesus for a while. We want to see more in God and be more effective for God, but we are often challenged by our own questions and doubts based, undoubtedly, on our experience. These verses are about faith. Growing in our faith as we are amazed yet again by the presence and the power of Jesus in our lives but also being real about our faith in the moment. The father in this narrative is at his wits end and racked with pain at the pain of his son. He comes to Jesus honestly and openly. Jesus meets him where he is, challenges him, but also loves him and brings transformation to the situation.

**Focussing on God**

Before discussing anything, spend a few minutes in simple worship and stillness. Encourage the group to slow down, breathe, and become aware of God's presence. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you truly **listen** — not just with your ears, but with open hearts and obedient lives.

These worship songs might help:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywF1rOVW12I&list=RDywF1rOVW12I&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywF1rOVW12I&list=RDywF1rOVW12I&start_radio=1)

You may want to remind the group that in Scripture, *hearing* God is always connected to *responding* to God. Allow space for prayers of welcome, surrender, and attentiveness.

**Missional Conversations**

Take time to share together:

- Where have you noticed God at work in your everyday life recently?
- Have there been conversations, moments, or opportunities where faith or hope naturally surfaced?
- Take 5 minutes to pray for those on your lost lists.

**Discipleship Discussion**

**Read together: Mark 9:14-29**

- Where else in Mark's gospel have we come across demons?
- What do you notice about how Jesus deals with them?
- What is different this time around?
- What explanation does Jesus give to the disciples?
- What do you think Jesus means in his explanation?
- Some scholars dismiss this passage as simply a matter of Jesus healing the boy from Epilepsy. Amazing though that healing would be, why does the passage not support that argument?
- Looking at the statement the boy's father makes in verse 24 where might we make the same exclamation?

**Prayer**

Make space to pray for one another, especially for those who need God to break into an ongoing situation.