

The Doubter
January 26

"We'll never survive!"

"Nonsense. You're only saying that because no one ever has!"

-William Goldman, *The Princess Bride*

Opening Prayer:

—-*Gracious Father, we invite you into this space. We ask that you make our hearts receptive to your teaching. We thank you for this community of believers. Give each of us wisdom and understanding in our time together. Amen.*

—-In this session, we will be discussing doubt and how we might respond to it. Take a few moments to share times in your life (spiritual or not) where you found yourself doubting.

"The relationship between commitment and doubt is by no means an antagonistic one. Commitment is healthiest when it is not without doubt, but in spite of doubt." —
psychologist Rollo May, *The Courage to Create*

--- What are your thoughts as you read the quote above?

—-Read **Mark 9:14-29**, as a group.

—-Individually, take a few minutes of silence to reflect on these questions regarding the scripture in Mark.

What might God want me to understand?

What might God want me to believe? Want me to desire?

What might God want to do in response to my understanding?

—-If you are willing, choose a response to share with the group.

—-We all have belief and unbelief, mixed. We doubt. Growing in faith is belief OVERTAKING unbelief. Review this dialogue between Jesus and the Father.

Verse 22: If you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.

Verse 23: "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."

Verse 24: Immediately, the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me to overcome my unbelief!"

—-In what ways can you relate to the boy's father?

—-What is significant about Jesus' response to the man?

—-When have you seen Jesus' presence in response to doubt in your life? And what did you take away from those experiences?

—- God wants to hear our doubts - He can handle it. Pastor Newman offered a time of healing and prayer at the end of the service on Sunday. Describe your feelings during that time.

—-Prayer Requests:

—-Closing Prayer

Next Meeting Date: _____

Upcoming Serve/Reach Opportunities:

