

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Message Title: *Real Jesus For Real Life* – Four Real Things

Main Text: Matthew 17:14–20

Speaker: Pastor Chad Gilligan

Date: July 20, 2025

1. Evil is Real

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 17:18; 1 Peter 5:8; John 10:10

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What stood out to you about how Jesus addressed the demon in the boy?
- How does recognizing evil as real affect the way we approach prayer or spiritual warfare?
- In what areas do you see the enemy's strategy of stealing, killing, and destroying today?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT:

Share a time when you became more aware of spiritual warfare in your own life. How did it change the way you prayed or lived?

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Evil is not just symbolic—it's active. But so is our authority in Christ. Recognizing the reality of spiritual opposition prepares us to stand firm in prayer and faith.

2. Heartache is Real

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 17:15–16; Romans 8:19–23

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How does this passage show us the brokenness in the world?
- What heartaches or disappointments have made you question where God is working?
- Why is it important to acknowledge pain and disappointment in our faith journey?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT:

How can we come alongside others who are hurting in a way that reflects Christ's compassion?

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Pain and disappointment are part of life in a fallen world, but God meets us in our suffering with hope and healing. Faith doesn't deny pain—it brings it to Jesus.

3. Faith Is Real

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 17:17, 19–20

Discussion Questions:

- What do you think Jesus meant when He said the disciples had “so little faith”?
- Why do you think Jesus used a mustard seed to describe faith?
- How can small, growing faith lead to big change?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT:

Is there a “mountain” in your life right now that you need faith to move? What would trusting God in that situation look like?

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Faith, even if small, is powerful when it’s real and rooted in Jesus. It’s not about quantity—it’s about where it’s placed. Real faith grows when exercised.

4. Jesus Is Real

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 17:14; Mark 9:21–24

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What does this story teach us about the nature of Jesus in difficult situations?

How does the father’s statement in Mark 9:24—“I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief”—resonate with your own journey?

What does it mean to have faith in Jesus rather than in faith itself?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT:

When have you had to trust Jesus even when your faith felt small or weak? What was the outcome?

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Jesus meets us with compassion and power when we come to Him honestly. Our hope isn’t in perfect faith—it’s in a perfect Savior. Real life needs a real Jesus.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

CLOSING THOUGHT:

Real pain. Real struggle. Real questions. But also—real hope in a real Savior. When we bring what we have, even small faith, to Jesus, He moves in ways we never imagined.

SUGGESTED PRAYER:

“Jesus, thank You that You are real and present in the messiness of our lives. Help us believe—even when we struggle with doubt. Strengthen our faith. Open our eyes to see where You are working, and help us trust that nothing is impossible with You. Amen.”