

Cross references and additional connections: Look these up!

- ❑ Parallel passages- Matthew 17:14-21, Luke 9:38-48
- ❑ Casting out of demons: Matt. 9:32-36, Mark 5:15-19, Luke 8:26-39, Luke 11
- ❑ Belief- Luke 17:5-6, Matt. 8:5-13, John 10:24-30, Heb. 11
- ❑ “Faithless generation” - Exodus 32, 2 Chron. 28:21-28, Jer. 3, 2 Tim 2:11-14.
- ❑ Power of God - Acts 8:18-24, Ps. 68:34-35, Ps. 50:1-6, Rev. 19:1-18

Questions for reflection:

- ❖ It is a humbling idea that we believe, but need help with our unbelief. Like the child in the pool, what are the implications of forgetting where our strength and faith come from? What have you tried and failed to do in your own power when all you needed to do was trust in God? (Parenting, finances, relationships.)
- ❖ What things have you accomplished, understanding it was only in God’s power?
- ❖ How has God shown you compassion in your life recently? How have you seen your need for Him?

Looking Forward: Mark 9:30-37

Gospel of Mark

Responding to the Messiah



Mark 9:14-29

Jesus heals the demon-possessed boy

Looking Back: Mark 9:2-13

List 3-4 observations from this passage that are new for you.

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Loving God with your actions

- ☐ Do you identify with the statement of the father?
List areas where faith/belief is difficult for you.
- ☐ Have you been trusting in God to work in your life this week?
Pray through the list you made above, and ask God to help you.
- ☐ What do these passages teach you about spiritual healing with faithful prayer?

Loving God with your heart

- ☐ Unbelief often manifests as fear and worry, which can often lead us to sin and disobedience. If you are a Jesus follower who believes in Him, what are areas of unbelief that can lead you into sin? Finances? Children? Those in authority over you? Illness? God's sovereignty?
- ☐ Spend some time in prayer asking Jesus to 'help your unbelief'.
- ☐ What are two practical steps you can take when you find yourself struggling with trust(belief) in those areas? Who can you ask to pray for you in those areas?

Loving God with your mind

Something to think about...

- ❖ We sometimes fall into the trap of thinking that unbelief only has impact on ourselves. However, when we disconnect ourselves from belief and reliance on Christ, we build up pride and self reliance. The fruit of those things can be really ugly. Our pride can have an impact on how we treat our family members, friends or those who are easiest to marginalize- "... the least of these," as Jesus says.
 - The danger of unbelief and self reliance is losing perspective on the mercy and compassion that has been shown to us. We may consider ourselves to be "the standard," instead of viewing Christ himself as the standard of righteousness we're striving toward.
 - Instead of putting ourselves on a pedestal, wondering if God could even have compassion on "those people," we put ourselves in our rightful place saying, "I'm so glad that God has shown compassion to those who don't deserve it- like me!"

Write your own thoughts/questions/reflections here: