

Mark: Hard To Believe

Mark 9:14-29



1. What insight, observation, or question do you have from this weeks' reading plan?
2. What insight, principle or observation from this week's message did you find to be most helpful, eye opening or troubling? Please explain.
3. In what ways is belief and faith a powerful force in this world?
4. Read Mark 9:14-29. In verse 19 Jesus chastises the disciples for their unbelief, then later in verse 29 tells the disciples they couldn't do the miracle because it requires prayer, even though it doesn't appear that Jesus stops to pray. What do prayer and faith have to do with each other? What could Jesus mean in all this?
5. The father in the story doesn't have a lot of faith. His faith was shattered by the failure of the disciples who represent Jesus. How has your faith been rocked in the past? How can putting our faith in people rather than God contribute to our faith being let down? Have you experienced this?
6. The father in the story had little faith, and he also had unbelief. How can belief and unbelief, faith and doubt co-exist? How can you move forward in faith while having these paradoxes continue to exist? How can we as a church and you personally be more open and gracious as Jesus was with people who live with faith and doubt?
7. Read 1 Peter 1:6-7. Faith is shown to be genuine when the circumstances of our life are difficult. How is this true in your own life? How have difficulties in your life shaped your faith and made it more genuine and strong in the end?
8. In what ways are you tempted to make God in your own image? Have you been tempted to walk away from your faith when God didn't answer your prayer of faith the way you wanted?
9. What would it look like to put the limited faith you have in a great God? And what would it look like for you to act on that faith?
10. Pray for each other.