

PREACHING CURRICULUM

SIMPLY FOLLOWING JESUS – MARK 9:14-29

Do You BELIEVE?

Jesus' disciples proved to be ineffective at casting a demon out of a young boy. From this incident, we learn that it is more than a matter of simply imitating Jesus' actions: we require His presence and power in order to be successful. Along with the young boy's father, we too must admit that our faith is often weak, and that we require Jesus' help.

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Read Mark 9:14-29. Why were the disciples unable to cast the demon out of the boy?

What is the significance of the father's statement in verse 24? What does it teach us about genuine faith?

What exactly is faith? Give a definition in your own words. Also, describe a few inaccurate ways in which people tend to view faith in our culture and in the church today.

What did Jesus mean when He said that this kind of demon could only be driven out by prayer (verse 29)?

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Which one of these statements is most true of you and your faith in Christ? Explain your answer.

- 1) "My faith is always strong and unwavering."
- 2) "I believe, but I also have my doubts."
- 3) "I'm not sure what I believe."
- 4) "I don't believe in Christ."

Have you ever felt guilty about having "not enough faith"? If so, why? What did you try to do about it?

Why do we so often fail as believers? What is the root cause of that failure?

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

Where does genuine faith come from? Is it something which we are responsible for producing in ourselves, or does it come from somewhere else?

Are you open to learning from Jesus and allowing Him to help you grow in your faith? What would your life look like if you relied more on Him to help you increase in your faith?

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

Pray for each other, that this week the Lord will help us to recognize:

- 1) That our faith is often weak
- 2) We need Him to sustain and increase our faith. We cannot do it on our own!