

## DISCUSSION IDEAS

# DEPENDENT FAITH IS THE KEY TO MINISTRY

Mark 9:14-29

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016

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**CONTEXT:** The Transfiguration of Christ has just been witnessed by Peter, James and John.

Meanwhile, the other nine disciples have been having a problem.

### ♦ DISCUSSION POINT ONE: THE DISCIPLES' PERSPECTIVE.

As you look at Mark 9:14–18,

What was the problem?

Who were the disciples arguing with?

Why was there an argument in the first place?

Why would the disciples think that they could cast out demons?

Compare Mark 3:14-15.

### ♦ DISCUSSION POINT TWO: JESUS' PERSPECTIVE.

In verses 20-24, discuss Jesus' attitude towards the boy's dad.

Why did Jesus take time to ask questions? Didn't He already know the answers?

What does this interaction tell up about Jesus' patience, love, and compassion?

With whom was Jesus unhappy? (Hint: not the dad.)

Why?

What did faith have to do with anything?

### ♦ DISCUSSION POINT THREE: "PRAYER WORKS".

Note the difference between what Jesus said in v. 25 and then later in v. 29.

Instead of just ordering the demon out, what did Jesus specifically say?

He later comments about the need for prayer. How does that compare to His words "I command you...."?

What does this indicate about Jesus' identity as God Himself?

Think about it, did the words cause the healing, or did the Person do it?

A common statement heard is the "prayer really works". Really?

It is not just about a choice of words. What does that statement say about our trust in God? How could that statement be misunderstood by a weaker believer or by an unbeliever?

What do we really believe about "prayer" and about "faith"?

How easy is it to start trusting a ritual or an attitude, instead of clearly acknowledging God?

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### ♦ CHALLENGE:

What does it mean to have "dependent faith"?

As we try to serve God, what should be our true perspective?

How can we keep our sight on WHO is doing the work?

How can we keep from letting concepts of faith (trust) and prayer become like "magic" in our own thoughts?

### ♦ PRAYER:

Let us be faithful in praying for our leaders, missionaries and fellow believers.

John and Bobbi Pearson are back from Spain, living in the USA now, and are looking to God for His next assignment.

The Ingvoldstads and Binders are with the Tagbanwa people:

- Ingvoldstads are back on the island. Praise God for improved health.
- Pray for their continued health.
- Pray for the selection and growth of Tagbanwan Elders.
- How would the Tagbanwan Church continue to grow without foreign help?
- Pray for the transitions that will be required.
- Ingvoldstads and Binders have a responsibility before God as to the raising of their children. At what point would God want them to leave the island?