

LifeGroups

“And He Arose”

Mark 9:14-29

Our church is studying the gospel of Mark each Sunday and discussing it through the week in Life Groups. The series is titled “The Cross-Shaped Life.” We believe discipleship takes place in and through community. Therefore we view small group Bible study as an essential means of spiritual growth. We hope you find these reflection questions helpful for recalling and applying what you hear from the pulpit each week. Time will not allow your group to work through all the questions in this guide. Select those that seem most relevant. Perhaps you can use the other questions in your own personal time with God.

This week's main point: *Immediately after coming down from the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus finds his disciples, some scribes, and a crowd in disarray. He has been away for at most six days but their belief in him has waned. The disciples lack power to free a boy of demon possession and fail even to pray. From this episode, we can see that prayer is essential to the church's power in Christ. Are we a praying people?*

Share

Can you remember a time in your life when you saw prayer directly affect a person's life? Perhaps it was a healing, a financial crisis averted, a heart changed by the gospel, etc. Share that miraculous story and praise God together for it.

Study

1. *Read Mark 9:14-29.*
2. *Compare and contrast Jesus' coming down from his transfiguration with Moses' coming down from Mt. Sinai in Exodus 32.*
3. *In light of the power that the disciples had been given by Jesus (see Mark 6:7-13), why do you think they were arguing with the scribes? See Mark 3:22.*
4. *Jesus' words in v.19 appear harsh toward the disciples and the desperate father of the possessed boy. Were his words directed at everyone present, or just to a particular group within the crowd? Toward whom was Jesus usually harsh? See Mark 12:38-40.*
5. *Why do you think the father of the boy said to Jesus, "if you can" (v. 22)? What was this man's view of Jesus: Teacher, Prophet, or Messiah? Discuss.*

See Jesus

1. *Why do you think the crowd was "greatly amazed" and "ran up to" Jesus in this passage?*
2. *Do you see any similarities between how Jesus deals with the father in this passage, and Jairus in Mark 5?*
3. *List the characteristics of Jesus that you see displayed in this passage. Discuss them. That list should cause us to love, fear and worship him!*

Send

1. *Has your faith in Jesus ever been shaken due to the failures of other Christians? Those can be incredibly painful and upsetting times. Has that situation been resolved? How did Jesus restore your faith in him?*
2. *None of us has a perfect faith. However, God promises to bring our faith to completion (Philippians 1:6). Where are you in your faith today? Are you like the boy's father, asking Jesus "if you can..."? Or do you believe he can do anything, and that he will fulfill all that he has promised?*

3. *When Jesus raises the boy, we see an amazing picture of what God does to our dead souls when the Holy Spirit breathes life into us. Who in your neighborhood needs the life-giving breath of the Holy Spirit to enter their lungs so they can repent and believe the gospel? Make a list of neighbors you want to pray for, then pray for them as a group.*

4. *It can be difficult to prioritize prayer on a daily basis. Yet, in this passage Jesus makes it clear that as his disciples, the only way we will be able to live in the power of the Holy Spirit is to have a prayer-filled life. Discuss what your personal prayer life is like at this time. Be honest with each other and pray together for the Holy Spirit to stir your hearts towards more time in prayer.*

Supplicate

- ◆ *Pray for our Missions Team as they look for ways UPC can grow more committed to praying, giving, and going for the sake of the nations.*
- ◆ *Pray for Linda Wheatley and the Children's Ministry Team, as they plan next year's Sunday School program and recruit teachers.*
- ◆ *Pray for our church of the week: Grace Journey Community Church*
- ◆ *Pray for our missionaries of the week: Jon & Sara Pfeil - Japan*
- ◆ *Pray for our unreached people group of the week: Koya of India*