

# GROWTH GROUPS

April 14, 2012

**“To Whom Much Has Been Given...”**

**Matthew 17:14-23**

**Conversation Starter -**

Recall a time when you invested yourself deeply in another, only to have that person not return that investment, disappointing you. What did that feel like?

**Understanding -**

Jesus' anger and frustration comes as a result of the disciple's lack of faith, even after the deep investment he has made in their life. Their ineffectiveness in serving Jesus through the life of this boy is the result of "so little faith," Jesus says. Having received significantly from Jesus, they should be much further along than they are. Using a term, "small," Jesus says that if we have faith as small as a mustard seed we will be able to accomplish incredible things in his name. He doesn't expect us to be spiritual giants, he expects us to act with "small" faith relative to the investment he has made in us.

- 1. What has God invested in you, and is he pleased with the return on investment he's getting?"**
- 2. One of the disciple's problems is that they put their "faith" in an image of "Jesus the Messiah" that Jesus did not reveal. Jesus revealed himself to the disciples as the "suffering servant." The disciples insisted on putting faith in the Messiah who would conquer Rome and restore Israel to prominence. As a result, their faith was a self-focused, self-aggrandizing faith. **From where do I derive my image of God; the image into which I place my faith?****
- 3. One truly revealed image of God that is hard for us to accept is a God who has the power to relieve suffering and injustice but chooses not to. **How does Jesus' own suffering help me respond to the suffering I see in the world today?****

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