



Help My Unbelief

May 14-15—Jim Johnson

The _____
Mark 9:14-19

The _____
Mark 9:20-27

The _____
Mark 9:28

The _____
Mark 9:29; Matthew 17:20

OUR TIME WITH GOD

For the full reading plan, go to SPCC.TV/Church Study & Resources

LAST WEEK	5/9-5/15		
MONDAY:	2 CHRON. 28	MATT. 21:23-46	PROV. 18:16-18
TUESDAY:	2 KINGS 16	LUKE 18:15-30	PROV. 18:19-21
WEDNESDAY:	2 KINGS 17	LUKE 18:31-43	PROV. 18:22-24
THURSDAY:	ISAIAH 13-14	LUKE 19:1-27	PROV. 18:25-27
FRIDAY:	ISAIAH 15	LUKE 19:28-48	PROV. 18:28-31
SATURDAY:	ISAIAH 16-17	MARK 11:1-14	PROV. 19:1-3
SUNDAY:	ISAIAH 18-19	MARK 11:15-33	PROV. 19:4-6

3 QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE EACH DAY:

1. What is the passage saying?
2. Does the passage tell you something about God or about yourself?
3. Is there something Jesus is reminding you of regarding who He is or who you are in Christ? How is He inviting you to respond to His word to you today?

REFLECTING ON YOUR TIME WITH GOD THIS WEEK:

1. Whether you're using SPCC's reading plan or a different one, think about your time listening and responding to Jesus' voice this week. As you journaled those conversations with Him, is there one thing in particular that you felt Him speaking to you about?

SHARING WITH YOUR GROUP:

2. Life Group leader, pick one person in your group this week to share their answer to question number one.

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTION:

3. Did Jesus impress something on your heart through today's message? If so, what was it?

MY PERSPECTIVE:

4. Can you recall a time when you tried something and failed in front of others? Describe.

DIGGING DEEPER:

5. Read Matthew 17:14-20 (*verse 21 is omitted because it is not found in the most reliable manuscripts*) and Luke 9:37-43. Compare these passages with Mark 9:14-29. List the additional pieces of information from this story that you gain from Matthew and Luke. Describe the differences you see in what each author emphasizes in their account.

LOOKING DEEPER:

This kind can come out only by prayer. Care should be taken not to interpret this statement as though he were divulging a secret method for exorcism. Curiously, Jesus did not pause to raise his eyes toward heaven and pray in this passage. Prayer was not the means by which he confronted the destructive power at work in this family. Jesus did not treat prayer as a technique or utility. The possibility is that Jesus was referring to his own practice of praying. There is no indication in Mark that the disciples prayed, although there are references to Jesus at prayer. Apart from this father's plea, Jesus is the only one who prays in this Gospel, and when he prayed his followers sometimes slept. Of the several references to Jesus' praying, on only one occasion does Mark take us inside, and that prayer begins with the affirmation *Abba, Father, everything is possible for you* (14:36). It is as though Mark were inviting his audience to follow the various references about prayer that do not describe what Jesus prayed about to this particular one. The prayers of 14:35-42 express a relationship in which Jesus placed his life in God's hands and trusted God to give it back. For Mark prayer is not primarily a way of getting what we want from God. It is instead the space where we come to terms with God's will. – Ronald Kernaghan, IVP New Testament Commentary, Mark

6. Read Matthew 21:21-22 & James 4:1-3 and Matthew 6:5-13. What do you think it means for us to pray with faith? Does God answer, or not answer, our prayers based on the quantity of our faith? Explain.

MY RESPONSE:

True faith is always aware how small and inadequate it is. The father becomes a believer not when he amasses a quantum of faith but when he risks everything on what little faith he has... True faith is unconditional openness to God, a decision in the face of all to the contrary that Jesus is able. – James Edwards, Pillar NT Commentary

7. Is there an area in your life where you would like to see God work, but your faith is weak? Describe. How do you think God would have you grow in faith?
8. Jesus modeled for us a life of consistent prayer. What you're your own prayer life look like? Describe ways you can grow in this area.