

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.*

Jan 2012

## **LESSON 13 – GOD’S SERVANT - A MAN OF FAITH**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- How do you deal with doubts about your faith?

### **OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION**

Note: *The three disciples are coming down from a physical and spiritual high of their time with Jesus and His transfiguration on the mountain. Raphael’s last great painting unites this scene with the transfiguration story. In the painting Jesus is displayed in dazzling white on the hilltop flanked by Moses and Elijah, while below, the disciples struggle to heal an epileptic boy. The painting marks the contrast between the serenity of the mountain top and the chaos and confusion below.*<sup>1</sup>

Read Mark 9:14-29

1. What had the other disciples been doing during the transfiguration?
2. What is the role of the crowd in this scene?
3. Why were they arguing?
4. What do we learn from the conversations between Jesus and the boy’s father?
5. How might it be possible to have faith even when doubt is present?
6. How did Jesus respond to the father’s honesty?
7. How does faith relate to the use of God’s power? Mark 6:4-6; Matt 8:10
8. Why couldn’t the disciples drive out the spirit? Matt 17:19-20
9. What does Jesus broad statement, “*Everything* is possible for him who believes.” mean? (23)
10. Why do we set limits on what God can do? Jn 11:40; 1 Jn 5:14-15
11. What is the relationship between God’s *will* and His *power*? 2 Cor 12:7-9; Rom 8:28
12. How does our prayer life affect our faith? (29)
13. The disciples had cast out demons before (6:13), but not now. How can we increase and renew/maintain our faith?

### **APPLICATION**

Are you more like the father or the religious leaders? What confessions of little faith and doubts do you need to bring to Jesus?

**“It’s impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him.**

**Heb 11: 6 (The Message)**

**When you ask you do not receive because you ask with the wrong motives...**

**James 4:3 (The Message)**

**And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.**

**John 14:13-14**

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<sup>1</sup> McFadyen, P. (1997). *Open Door on Mark: His gospel explored* (54–55). London: Triangle.