

## Study Guide

### Mark 9:14-50

#### Key themes and lessons for discussion:

Jesus continues to remind his disciples of his impending death and resurrection. Messiah dead and raised again? It's a concept and an act of humility that they can't seem to grasp just yet...

Jesus teaches on the importance of prayer in building up an imperfect faith, as we struggle with self-reliance, through a riveting and heart-breaking story of one father's journey of pain and struggle.

The passages are full of lessons on humility, service and radical discipleship. I encourage you to read the passage prior to coming to Community Group and pray for an increase in faith as we all journey on in an uncertain world while navigating the real struggles of faith, self-reliance, and pride. How are we to deal with all of this?

#### Discussion Considerations:

There are many lessons to learn and cover in these passages. I would encourage the group to read them in advance, pray over it, and make time to cover them as you feel led.

You may need to spend the majority of your time on the latter questions, if so, go straight there. Or take two weeks to process this. Make sure to pray for each other's insurmountable mountains that only God can move through faith. May we all grow in our faith as God provides. (Matt. 17:20)

1. To fully grasp the various lessons that Jesus teaches us in our selected readings, read Mark 8:31-Mark 9:30.
  1. What are the key themes?
2. Compare and contrast the Transfiguration passages Mark 9:2-13, with the reality of the story found in Mark 9:9:14-29.
  1. Why do you think such a contrast was made for the disciples? The glory of a future with Christ vs a reality of evil in the present down in the valley?
3. What are your observations about the fathers cry for help?
  1. His expectations that Jesus was going to be there with his disciples?
  2. Can you relate to the fathers honest admission of "I believe; help my unbelief!"?
4. How does the disciples' self-reliance come out in this story? Read Matthew 17:20
  1. What mountains are in your life that only God can move through prayer and faith?
    1. Discuss within your group and pray for each other.
5. Read Mark 9:30-50
  1. Discuss the rest of the chapter as you are led. How do these teachings prompt you to respond?
  2. Are you struggling with pride? How does Jesus' model of service and being last make you feel? \

1. Read Philippians 2:1-11
3. What pride or anger do you have towards other Christians that Jesus may be calling you to forgive and serve?
  1. Mark 9:38-41
4. What temptations do you need to battle with?
  1. Read Mark 7:14-23 - what is in your heart that God needs to transform and purify?
5. Pray together. Lift each others burdens. Create space for the Spirit to move, convict, redeem, restore, renew...
  1. Pray for each other during the week. Check-in and encourage one another.

## Message Slides

### Mark 9:14-50

May 5th & 6th, 2018

Ilya Tlumach, Elder

#### 1. **Shattered Expectations of Messiah** –

"the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again."

#### 2. **The Exchange: Die to Live** ..

"deny himself and take up his cross and follow me".

"For whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?"

#### 3. **The Transfiguration:**

"Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus."

Picture:



#### 4. Jesus Heals a Boy with an Unclean Spirit

“And when they came to the disciples, they saw **a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them.** <sup>16</sup>And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. <sup>17</sup>And he asked them, **“What are you arguing about with them?”** <sup>18</sup>And **someone** from the crowd answered him, **“Teacher, I brought my son to you,** for he has a spirit that makes him mute. <sup>19</sup>And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. **So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.**” <sup>20</sup>And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” <sup>21</sup>And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. <sup>22</sup>**And Jesus asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood.**” <sup>23</sup>And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. **But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.**” <sup>24</sup>And Jesus said to him, **“If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.”** <sup>25</sup>**Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”** <sup>26</sup>And when Jesus saw that a crowd

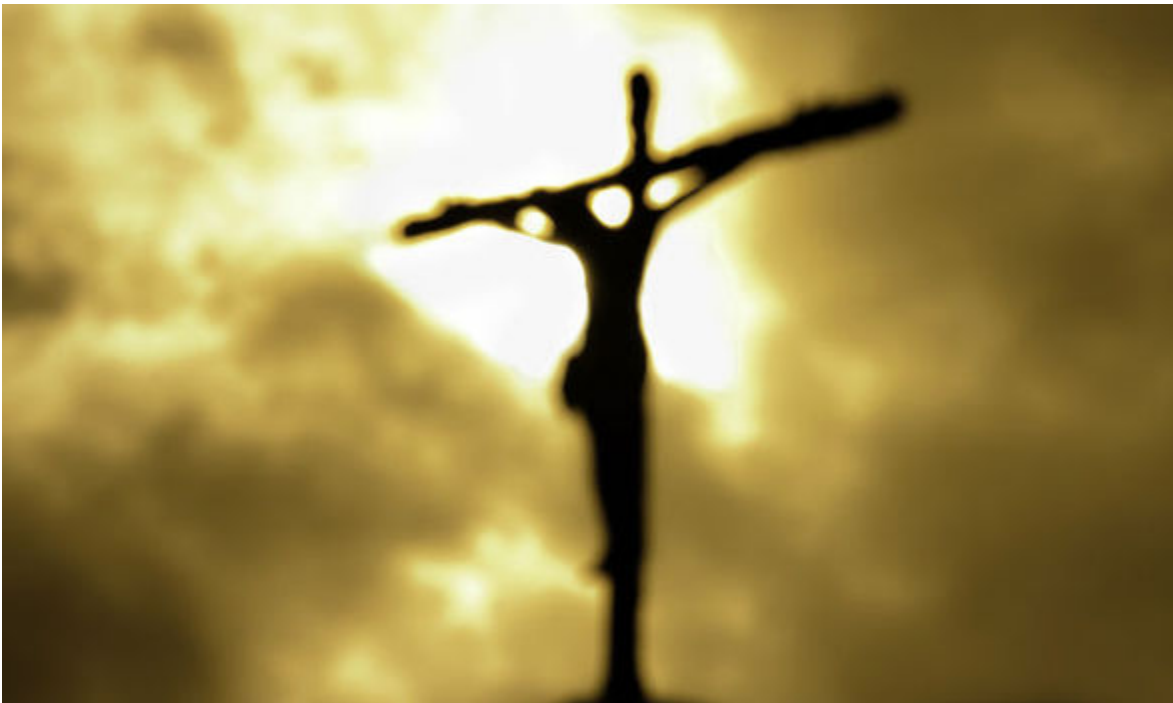
came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."<sup>26</sup> And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead."<sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.<sup>28</sup> And when he had entered the house, **his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"**<sup>29</sup> And he said to them, **"This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."**<sup>30</sup>

#### Matthew 17: 19-21

<sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?"<sup>20</sup> He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, **if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.**"<sup>21</sup>

### 5. Jesus Again Foretells Death, Resurrection – Ultimate act of Humility

Mark 9:31 "...The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise." But they **did not understand** the saying, and **were afraid to ask him.**



### 6. Who is the Greatest? Lessons from The Teacher

Mark 9:33-37

<sup>33</sup>And they came to Capernaum. **And when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you discussing on the way?"** <sup>34</sup>**But they kept silent,** for on the way **they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.** <sup>35</sup>**And he sat down** and called the twelve. And he said to them, "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."<sup>36</sup>And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>"Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me."



## 7. I AM THE GREATEST!!!

(On que, play Apple X Selfies video, link below)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vbFe6F48Uo>

Note (After video, show the Self-reliant picture below, full screen. No text. )



## 8. Strict Warning & A Radical Call to Discipleship

### Temptations to Sin

<sup>42</sup>“Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, **it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.** <sup>43</sup>And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, <sup>44</sup>to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’ <sup>49</sup>For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good, but if the salt has lost its saltiness, how will you make it salty again? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”



## DON'T OPEN THAT DOOR

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must master it. — GENESIS 4:7 NIV

9. Mark 7:18b-23



"...Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile him, since it enters not his heart but his stomach, and is expelled?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) "And he said, **What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come** evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

## 10. Christ's Example of Humility

(Worship team can come up as I read and move to prayer)

Philippians 2:1-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.