

# Goldstone Church

## Small Group Questions

### Mark 9:14-29

#### For Starting

- What is the hardest thing you have ever done physically?
- Would you prefer making headlines for saving somebody's life or for winning a Nobel Prize? Why?
- If you could ask Jesus to change one problem in the world today, what would you like Him to change?
- Are spontaneous prayers better than pre-written prayers? Why?

#### For Reviewing

- Who were arguing with the disciples (v.14)?
- What were they arguing about (v.17-18)?
- What happened when the boy was brought to Jesus (v.20)?
- Into what had the boy fallen in the past (v.22)?
- What is possible for those who believe in Jesus (v.23)?
- How did Jesus respond when He saw the crowd coming to Him (v.25)? Did Jesus want to be a celebrity?
- What happened to the boy when the evil spirit left him (v.26)?
- Compare Jesus' actions in v.27 and Mark 5:40-42.
- What does Jesus say was the reason the disciples failed (v.28-29)?

#### For Discussion

- Do you think the 9 disciples would have been more successful if they had seen Jesus' Transfigured earlier that day (Mark 9:2-13)?
- What do you think the boy's father meant when he said, "*I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!*"?
- v.26-27 show Jesus: ❶ avoiding the crowd, ❷ rebuking the evil spirits, and ❸ commanding the evil spirits. What does this reveal about Jesus' agenda, power and authority?
- Some Bible translations add "*and fasting*" at the end of v.29. What extra benefit is there (if any) to fasting with prayer?
- "*The authority that Jesus had given the disciples was effective only if exercised by faith; but faith must be developed by spiritual discipline and devotion*". Do you agree/disagree? How does this affect our lives today?
- How does a lack of faith in Jesus affect our prayer life today? How can this be changed/improved?
- You could end by reading together Mark 9:23.

## **Mark 9:14-29 (NIVUK)**

### **Jesus Heals a Boy Possessed by an Impure Spirit**

<sup>14</sup> When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. <sup>15</sup> As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

<sup>16</sup> "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked.

<sup>17</sup> A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. <sup>18</sup> Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

<sup>19</sup> "You unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

<sup>20</sup> So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

<sup>21</sup> Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"

"From childhood," he answered. <sup>22</sup> "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."

<sup>23</sup> "'If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for one who believes."

<sup>24</sup> Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

<sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

<sup>26</sup> The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." <sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

<sup>28</sup> After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

<sup>29</sup> He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."