

Ice Breaker:

Have three people in your group separately right down one or three sentences that describe the most recent super bowl. Don't share until each person has written theirs.

Have each of the three read their sentences out loud.

Did they use any of the same words?

What was the biggest difference?

Groups Discussion Questions:

Today we are reading another account of Jesus when he leaves the Mount of Transfiguration and enters the valley below. This one is out of the book of Mark. Two weeks ago we read Luke's.

Mark 9:14-29

Jesus Heals a Boy Possessed by an Impure Spirit

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

16 *"What are you arguing with them about?" he asked.*

17 *A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. 18* *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."*

19 *"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."*

20 *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.*

21 *Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?"*

“From childhood,” he answered. 22 “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.”

23 “If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

24 Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

25 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.”

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

28 After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

29 He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

What similarities did you notice?

What differences?

Why do you think this is?

In reading today’s passage in Mark, we see that there is a lot of commotion when Jesus and His disciples get to the people. Picture this seen. How does Jesus respond?

The people are arguing. What do you think the emotions of the disciples were? What about the boy’s father, the crowd, and the pharisees?

Do you think everyone in there cared about the boy? Or were their emotions charged with different reasons?

Jesus asks what the problem is, what are they arguing about. In the message, Eric said that it is important to name the actual problem (in our minds and in prayer) when we are caught up in emotions. How could this help you?

Next Jesus asks, How long has he been like this? Why do you think Jesus asked that?

Do you think evil can take a bigger hold or have a stronger “root” when it has been present for a longer time? Why or why not?

When does a sinful choice become a habit, or even an addiction?

How does addiction feel like being in bondage?

What responsibilities do you have in regards to what your kids listen to and watch?

Eric said, *Being vigilant may not be easy, but it is vital.* Have you found any helpful ways to guard them?

How do you guard your own heart and mind?

The father of the boy used a very interesting word when he asked Jesus for help. What did he say?

How does Jesus respond to this question?

How did the man respond?

***Acknowledgement that we can't do it, is the beginning of faith.*
Have you ever had a time when your faith felt that small you even had to ask God to help you believe? Tell us about it.**

Are there any areas in your life where you are desperate for God to step in?

Can we pray with you?

Prayer Requests

Digging Deeper:

Read Mark 6:7-13

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. 7 Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

8 These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. 9 Wear sandals but not an extra shirt. 10 Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. 11 And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, leave that place and shake the dust off your feet as a testimony against them."

12 They went out and preached that people should repent. 13 They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

According to this passage what authority was given to the disciples?

According to verse 13, what power did they exercise?

Why couldn't they rebuke the demon in Mark 9? (Verses 28-29)

How was the boy's father's plea to Jesus different from the disciples?

After Jesus sent out the 12 disciples, He then sent out 72 to do ministry. Read what happened when they returned:

Luke 10:17-20

17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."

18 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. 19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. 20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Why do you think Jesus cautioned them with verse 20?

Have you ever found yourself trying to do ministry in your own power rather than relying only on Jesus?

How can we avoid doing that?