

Group Bible Study/Discussion:

1. Read Psalm 31:1-5 & Mark 9:14-29. What strikes you as you read?
2. In this time of hardship, David seems tempted to look at his circumstances & despair. What truth does he confess to refocus himself? What are you tempted to turn to in our overwhelming circumstances? How do you ward off despair?
3. Read Luke 23:46 & note the direct quote from Psalm 31:5. Why does Jesus choose this moment to recall that Psalm? How does God respond to this trust & commitment?
4. What has happened just before Jesus returns to the larger group of disciples? What sort of "argument" do you think the remaining 9 disciples were having with the religious leaders in Jesus' absence; particularly given what's been asked of them? As the boy's father, how would you feel during this argument?
5. In verse 19, Jesus refers to this "unbelieving" or "faithless" generation. In what ways do we see unbelief or faithlessness exhibited in this passage?
6. What do you make of Jesus' response to the father in verse 23? Do you believe everything is possible for the one who believes? If not, why not?
7. Why couldn't the disciples drive out the evil Spirit? What does Jesus reply reveal about the relationship between the work of the disciples & their relationship to Jesus?
8. How does turning to Jesus with questions and doubts demonstrate at least small faith rather than no faith at all? What would no faith look like?
9. Pastor John made reference to the saying, "Not all doubts are created equal. Moments of unbelief does not mean disbelief." Does that seem true in your experience? Have you had moments of doubt or unbelief, but never gave up your faith in Jesus?
10. Some people allow their doubts or disappointments become unbelief & walk away from a living relationship with Jesus before they've fully trusted in his power to transform their lives. What would you say to someone you know in that circumstance?
11. Read Colossians 2:15. Given what you learn of darkness & spiritual warfare in Mark 9, how does Jesus victory on the cross fill you with gratitude & boldness in your relationship with Him?

Living Water Fellowship

3rd Sunday in Lent – 3rd March 2024

COME TO JESUS

OPENING SONGS: *Here is Love (PW 1025)*
This Life I Live

CCL Licence 384660

WELCOME & PRAYER:

GROW IN HIS GRACE

BIBLE READING: Psalm 31:1-5

¹ O Lord, I have come to you for protection; don't let me be disgraced.

Save me, for you do what is right.

² Turn your ear to listen to me; rescue me quickly.

Be my rock of protection, a fortress where I will be safe.

³ You are my rock and my fortress.

For the honor of your name, lead me out of this danger.

⁴ Pull me from the trap my enemies set for me, for I find protection in you alone.

⁵ I entrust my spirit into your hand. Rescue me, Lord, for you are a faithful God.

CHILDREN'S TIME:

BIBLE READING: Mark 9:14-29

¹⁴ When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd surrounding them, & some teachers of religious law were arguing with them. ¹⁵ When the crowd saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with awe, & they ran to greet him. ¹⁶ "What is all this arguing about?" Jesus asked.

¹⁷ One of the men in the crowd spoke up, "Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won't let him talk. ¹⁸ Whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth & grinds his teeth & becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn't do it."

¹⁹ Jesus said to them, "You unbelieving generation! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

²⁰ So they brought the boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, & he fell to the ground, writhing & foaming at the mouth. ²¹ "How long has this been happening?" Jesus asked the boy's father. He replied, "Since he was a little boy. ²² The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us & help us, if you can." ²³ "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes." ²⁴ The father instantly cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!"

²⁵ When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. "Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear & speak," he said. "I command you to come out of this child & never enter him again!"

²⁶ Then the spirit screamed & threw the boy into another violent convulsion & left him. The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd as people said, "He's dead." ²⁷ But Jesus took him by the hand & helped him to his feet, & he stood up.

²⁸ Afterward, when Jesus was alone in the house with his disciples, they asked him, "Why couldn't we cast out that evil spirit?" ²⁹ Jesus replied, "This kind can be cast out only by prayer."

FAITH CHAT:

1. Have you ever prayed for something & seemingly saw no result?
2. Have you ever prayed for something & something happened?

What was that like for you? What effect did that have on your praying?

THE MESSAGE: *DISCIPLESHIP BEGINS WITH A "W": WAR*

OFFERING SONG: *Glorious Day* CCL Licence 384660

PRAYERS:

THE COMMUNION:

Preparation:

Lord, I was a pile of ash and you made me a light for the world.

I was a stone, and you made me salt for the earth.

I was as lifeless as clay and you made me part of the Body of Christ.

I was sinful and you made me holy.

I was nothing and you made me part of everything.

The Words of Institution & The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, & the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Worship during Communion: VIDEO – I WANT TO KNOW YOU (CityAlight) - CCL Licence 384660

Post-Communion Blessing:

Response:

Lord, in you I am transformed and transformed still again.

For the discouraged, make me hope.

For the hungry, make me bread.

For the thirsty, make me water.

For the suffering, make me help.

For the sick, make me healing.

For the captives, make me freedom.

For the outcasts, make me love.

GO IN HIS POWER

THE BLESSING:

(Name), † child of God...

"Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power!"

-- Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SONG: *Filled my Life with Grace* CCL Licence 384660

SHOW HIS LOVE