

Ignite Week #5 Lesson

Scripture: Mark 9:14-29

Chapter Five: Praying for Faith

Pages 76 - 87

Group questions:

- When was the last time you had doubts about a situation or a person?

- Have you every doubted that God would do something?

- Faith is trust in God despite the difficulties of the circumstances.
- The father in this passage in the Gospel of Mark is facing a very difficult time in his life and the life of his family.
- When we face difficult times it is unlikely that we will be focused on much more than our current issue, just like this man.
- To be sure, his faith had been further shaken after looking to the disciples to help his son and discovering that they were powerless to assist him.

- In order for this man to receive what he was looking for from Jesus he needed to move past his doubts and embrace what was possible.
- Our response in times of need should resemble this man's statement of "Lord I believe but help my unbelief".
- What do you feel is currently an area of doubt for you?

- Jesus wants to enter our prayer life and our life in general with the understanding that with Him all things are possible.
- Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-6
- Name the last time you had to believe God for what was seemingly impossible?

- God can do and wants to do the impossible in our lives if we will only have faith enough to believe that He can.
- Prayer powers our faith in God.
- Similar to battery power, our faith must be recharged in order to function properly.
- Many of us live lives of in sufficient power, because we lack the power needed in prayer.
- We must recognize that prayer increases faith and faith empowers our prayer life.

- What issues are draining your energy that requires you to have greater faith to conquer?

- Scripture: Luke 7:1-10

- Is your faith out of shape or is it maintaining a healthy diet of prayer?

- Many people have tried to lose weight and have come up short because they fail to focus on the two most important factors; exercise and food. Diet is not about eating, its about eating the right things, while exercise is about how much weight you can lift, but consistently building and toning your muscles.
- It doesn't matter how much you exercise or how well you eat, if you do not work them both at the same time your results will not have optimum results.
- Pray and faith work in a similar way, if you do not practice them both you will fall short of your goals and spiritual potential.
- In this section of the Gospel of Luke, Jesus finds a man with the right balance of faith and prayer, who in turn receives the results he is looking for.
- As believers, our spiritual health is dictated by how much of the Word we consume and how many times we exercise our faith through prayer.

Suggested Group Activities For This Week:

- Create a social media #Hashtag for your church and your group to encourage leaders and others to post pictures of ways they are trusting God by faith.
- Create or dedicate a phone number for people to send in their prayers to be lifted up through text message. The group members can take turns answering the text messages and sending replies on behalf of the group.
- Starting this week engage members of your group and members of other groups to share their testimonies about the past few weeks of dedicated time in prayer and reading.

