



Introduction

Life has a way of shaking the foundations of what we believe. Whether it's a health scare, a financial crisis, or a broken relationship, tough times can make us question things we once felt unshakeable about. In Mark 9, a desperate father brings his demon-possessed son to Jesus' disciples for healing—and they can't do it. When Jesus arrives, the father utters one of the most honest prayers in all of Scripture: "I believe; help my unbelief!" This passage reminds us that doubt and faith are not opposites—and that what matters most is where we take our doubt.

Discussion

- Have you ever gone through a difficult experience that made you question something you previously felt sure about? What was that like?
- When you face uncertainty or fear, what is your typical first response—do you tend to talk to someone, withdraw, pray, or something else?

Going Deeper*

- Read Mark 9:17-27. What stands out to you in this passage?
- The disciples had previously been given authority to cast out demons (Mark 6:7-13), yet they fail here. Why do you think they were unable to heal the boy this time?
- When the father says "If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us," Jesus responds strongly to the word "if." Why do you think Jesus reacted that way?
- What do you think the father meant when he said, "I believe; help my unbelief"? Is this a statement of faith, doubt, or both?
- The sermon suggested that the difference between a statement of belief and a statement of doubt may be who it's directed to. Do you agree? Why or why not?
- Why is it significant that the demon convulsed the boy when it saw Jesus? What does that tell us about the nature of doubt and the forces behind it?

Application

- What is your big takeaway from this passage and sermon?
- Is there a doubt or fear you've been holding onto instead of bringing to Jesus? What would it look like to take that doubt to him this week?
- The sermon asked, "How much of Jesus can you say yes to today?" How would you answer that question right now?
- How can we be in prayer for you?

**Scripture references are from the NRSV.*