



M O V I N G M O U N T A I N S

SESSION 4 - GROWING OUR FAITH

SERIES BIG IDEA

Through the posture and practice of prayer, we can experience God's mountain-moving power.

MESSAGE BIG IDEA

Faith is trusting the Mountain Mover.

SCRIPTURE: MARK 9:14-29

ICEBREAKER AND OPENING THOUGHT

The topic of trust can be a difficult one for people for many different reasons. Many people have learned not to trust other people because they have been hurt or betrayed. Overall, we want people to learn to trust God in growing incremental steps of faith. One thing to keep in mind is that faith is not just “mentally assenting” to beliefs about God or the Christian faith, rather it means to trust that God's ways are best and aligning our lives to that reality.

BIBLE DISCUSSION

Let the group speculate on the feelings and thoughts of the people in this story. Whenever we read a gospel account in this way and put ourselves in the place of the hearers, it gives us an opportunity to examine our thoughts and feelings about Jesus and what he was doing. It might be comforting for your group to realize that the disciples had already been given authority to drive out demons, yet were unable to do so in this story. It is a reminder that as soon as we think we understand what it means to be a Christ-follower, we realize there is so much more to learn.

LIFE APPLICATION

The prayer of the father has given a voice to many people throughout the years who struggle with trusting God, especially if their mountain hasn't moved. It is OK if people are still wrestling with the ideas presented in this series. Encourage people's wrestling, be supportive when they struggle, and always encourage people to take the next “best” step where they can. The point of the series isn't that we will be heroes of the faith, but that we would put our faith (what little we may have at times) in God in ever increasing ways.

CHALLENGE

In a growing relationship with Jesus, we continue to ask God to move mountains so he can deepen our faith so that we can learn to trust him. As you talk about the ways you've been stretched and challenged, and how you think you can deepen your faith in God, break up into groups of 2-4 and spend time praying for one another so you might put more faith in our mountain moving God.