



February 26, 2023

Sandy Hughes

Mark 9:14-29

*"It's at the foot of the mountain that God will shape our faith."*

1. Share a story of a memorable mountaintop experience you had. Did you find that your mountain top experience was followed by a "foot of the mountain" experience? Explain.
2. **Humble Faith (vv. 14-27)** What does this story reveal about the state of the father's faith? How does the father's faith resonate with the state of your own faith?
3. What do Jesus' words and actions reveal about Jesus' priorities for his disciples, the father, and his son?
4. **Prayerful Faith (vv. 28-29)** Thinking back through our study of Mark up to this point, what have we learned about Jesus' prayer life? Why do we struggle to have a vibrant prayer life? What has helped you grow your prayer life?
5. Joni Erikson Tada says, *"Faith isn't the ability to believe long and far into the misty future. It's simply taking God at His Word and taking the next step."* Which of these do you most identify with?

**A. The Doubter:**

What has caused your doubts? What would be different in your current circumstances if you believed God could do anything? Sandy says, "Don't go through your doubting alone." Do you have someone in your life who you can share your doubts with?

How do you encourage someone who is doubting?

- B. **The Self-Reliant:** Have you been conditioned over the years to appear God-reliant when you are actually very self-reliant? In your battle against self-reliance, what does it look like for you to stop worrying, quit interrupting, cease striving, and simply pray?
6. Offer these reflections to God, and ask for the grace to receive God's power, goodness, and kindness. Continue to run to Him in your unbelief, it's where Jesus meets us and shapes us.
  7. How might your Community Group encourage you toward your next step on your journey toward faithful and prayerful living?