

BACK DOWN IN THE VALLEY

Scott Hansen, Lead Pastor
April 27, 2014

Luke 9:37-43

INTRODUCTION

- From the mountain top experience of the transfiguration to the valley of defeat with the disciples
- Luke 9:37-50 shows that the disciples were lacking in:
 - ▶ _____ (vv.37-43)
 - ▶ _____ (vv.44-45)
 - ▶ _____ (vv.46-48)
 - ▶ _____ (vv.49-50)
- Read Luke 9:37-43a & Mark 9:14-29 (cf. Matthew 17:14-21)

SCENE

- ▶ _____ (Mark 9:15)
- ▶ _____ - _____ boy (cf. Exodus 20:4-5)
- ▶ _____ father
- ▶ _____ (Luke 9:1-2; 40)
- ▶ _____ (Mark 9:14)

SHOCKING WORDS (Luke 9:41a)

PRINCIPLE #1: Our fundamental problems today are _____ in _____ & require _____ solutions.

MIRACLE (Luke 9:41b; Mark 9:25-27)

A LITTLE FAITH TRANSFUSION PLEASE! (Mark 9:29; Matthew 17:20)

- Brutally honest interaction with the father (Mark 9:21-24)

PRINCIPLE #2: God meets you _____,
not where you _____ be.

PRINCIPLE #3: Even an _____ in _____
requires the Lord's _____.
(Mark 9:24; Proverbs 3:5-6)

- Mark 9:24 - *"I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"*

- I will carefully reread Mark 9:14-29 this week.
- I will seek to pray the "honest prayer" several times this week: "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief."
- I am committing to follow Jesus for the first time today.
- I am re-committing my life to Jesus today.



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Lesson Aim: *To discuss how to have a stronger faith in Jesus even in the midst of our doubts and fears.*

Prayer: Ask the Holy Spirit to lead your study time and/or discussion.

Ice-breaker: Share an answer to prayer you've had in 2014.

1. **READ all three Gospel accounts of this story:** **Matthew 17:14-23; Mark 9:14-32 & Luke 9:37-43.** Write down two or three details from these accounts that are the same.

2. Write down at least one detail that is unique in each account.

3. What is important about each of these unique details?

4. The father says to Jesus: "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief?" (Mark 9:24) Describe a time in your life when your faith felt weak.

5. Describe another time when your faith felt strong.

6. What is going on in your life RIGHT NOW that makes you say to Jesus: "I do believe, help me in my unbelief"?

7. How has your prayer focus on this situation/issue been personally and/or with your family? Have you been able to ask other believers to spend specific focused prayer on your behalf concerning this situation/issue? If not, why not? If yes, how so?

8. Take some time RIGHT NOW to pray about the things the group members have shared. Depending on time and the size of your group, you may want to do this as an entire group together or by breaking down into smaller groups (for example: groups of three or four; men and women; etc.).

Close in prayer as the Holy Spirit leads you.

This **LifeGroup** Study Guide is designed to help you apply Sunday's message. You can do this homework on your own; however we encourage you to check out our warm and friendly message-based **LifeGroups!** Get a copy of this Study Guide at theBridgewayFresno.com by clicking on the "Messages" link.