



Introduction

After Jesus and his disciples returned from the mountain where Jesus was transfigured, they were immediately confronted by the needs of people suffering from the effects of sin and evil. The same is often true for us; we can often go from a 'mountaintop experience' into a valley of suffering and pain. Mark seems to be pointing out to his readers that not only is Jesus right there in those circumstances, but he is also a Lord that can be trusted and desires to help.

Observation/Interpretation

- In Mark 9:19, why does Jesus express frustration?
- Often as you learn to walk with Jesus the spiritual tasks we are given become harder, demand more courage, more energy and greater discipline in prayer (see Mark 6:13, 9:17-18, 28-29). Have you found this to be the case in your life? Explain.

Application

- How do the father's words in Mark 9:24 echo your own feelings at times?
- What does Mark 9:28-29 teach us about how to deal difficulties and challenges that are bigger than ourselves?

Prayer

- Thank God that even though you have doubts and imperfect faith, He still hears and responds to you in love.

Community Group Discussion

- Read the passage together out loud.
- Involve your group by asking/answering the study questions, taking the time to share.
- Ask for prayer requests and be sure to pray together.

Family Discussion

- Have your child/children read the passage aloud, if old enough otherwise you read it aloud.
- Involve them by asking questions.
- Ask for prayer requests and invite them to pray together as a family.

A great way to use of these notes is to start/join a Community Group

These notes can be used for personal bible study, yet, another way would be to invite some people together. We call these intentional gatherings, 'Community Groups'.

What is a Community Group?

Community Groups are small gatherings of believers (non-believers welcomed too!) that meet regularly for accountability, friendship, study of the Bible and prayer. Community Groups are an essential part of the mission of Calvary SLO Church as they are a place where we wrestle with the truths of the Bible and encourage one another toward the life God intends. Each community group is unique and molded by the people who attend it. Most community groups gather weekly and involve food, dialog, prayer, discussion for applying the Bible to practical living, and loving service to one-another. They're meant to be an organic and authentic expression of the church, actively living like the body of Jesus.

Why should I join/start a Community Group?

God is a Trinitarian God who is revealed as one in three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We've been made to image God, which means we're designed for community & friendship. We often suffer when we're not in community, due to the brokenness of life, complexity of this world and the temptation to isolate ourselves. We encourage you to gather with a small group of friends, family or roommates on a weekly basis and use these discussion notes to press deeper into God.

How do I join the Calvary SLO Community Group eco-system?

We're enthusiastic about all forms of biblical community, however there are definite benefits to joining with the Calvary SLO Community Group (CG) eco-system. In short, the benefits are:

- **Training:** We have trainings intent on equipping leaders.
- **Support:** Each CG leader is assigned a coach to provide assistance and ongoing support.
- **Visibility:** CG's are promoted via the bulletin, website & given access to The City (our online social network).

To join all you have to do is sign up for the next upcoming training! Info: pastor James: james@calvaryslo.com.