

OPENING QUESTION

Experts say that the most effective communication is when we spend 20% of our time asking and 80% of our time answering as we talk with someone. Think about the kind of person you are. Think about your personality. Do you consider yourself more of an asker or a teller?

READ TOGETHER

Mark 9:14-29

BIG IDEA

We only succeed in spiritual warfare accompanied by Jesus.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From what you know from what is going on in the book of Mark so far, how many subplots can you identify in this story?
2. Read verses 14-22: How would you describe how this man must have felt about what was happening to his son?
3. What do you think the father meant by what he said to Jesus in verse 24?
4. Does Jesus have any trouble dealing with the evil spirit in this boy? Why or why not?
5. Read Colossians 2:9-10; Colossians 2:13-15; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; Revelation 12:9. What do the Scriptures say about why Jesus had no trouble in dealing with the evil spirit?
6. Read verses 28 and 29. What does Jesus identify as the problem behind the disciples' inability to cast out the evil spirit?
7. Who is in charge when it comes to spiritual warfare? Ultimately whose battle is it to win? Read Ephesians 6:1-10.
8. Right now, who do you identify most closely with in this story? Why?
9. Right now, what do you find most challenging about this story in your own life? Why?

CHALLENGE

This week commit to praying for those in your most important relationships that their eyes would continuously be opened to see the role Jesus wants to play in their lives.

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PRAYER

As a group take some time to pray for those whose eyes have been blinded by the Evil One. Before you do, have different group members read Acts 26:17-18, 2 Corinthians 4:4 and Isaiah 61:1-3. Use specific names of people as you pray for them.

NEXT STEP

A good read regarding spiritual warfare in our lives is **The Bondage Breaker** by Neil Anderson. Well worth your time.