

When Faith Feels Fragile Discussion

1. This story takes place right after the Transfiguration, when Jesus and the disciples move from a moment of glory on the mountain into a chaotic and painful situation in the valley. Why do you think spiritual “mountaintop” experiences are often followed by difficult or discouraging moments? Have you experienced something like that in your own life?
2. The father says, “I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” How can someone’s faith be affected when believers or the church fail to help in a moment of need? How should Christians respond when they realize they have disappointed someone spiritually?
3. In the middle of the confusion and arguments, Jesus simply says, “Bring him to me.” What kinds of struggles or burdens do people tend to keep trying to handle themselves instead of bringing directly to Jesus? Why do we hesitate to bring our broken situations to Him?
4. The father says to Jesus, “If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” What experiences in life can make a person begin to doubt whether God will really act or intervene?
5. The father then prays, “I believe; help my unbelief.” Why do you think Jesus receives this honest prayer rather than rebuking it? What does this teach us about how open and honest we can be with God?
6. The sermon emphasized that the issue is not the size of our faith but the object of our faith. What is the difference between trusting in the strength of your faith and trusting in the strength of Christ?
7. When the demon comes out, the boy appears lifeless and the crowd assumes he is dead before Jesus lifts him up. Have you ever experienced a situation where things seemed to get worse before they got better? How can that moment challenge someone’s faith?
8. Jesus tells the disciples that this kind of battle comes out only through prayer. What does that reveal about the difference between relying on our own ability and depending on God?
9. The story shows Jesus delivering one boy from darkness, but the sermon pointed out that the deeper problem is the power of sin in all of us. How does the cross and resurrection show that Jesus has authority to rescue us from our deepest spiritual need?
10. The sermon encouraged believers to keep praying, “I believe; help my unbelief.” Where in your life right now do you most need to pray that prayer, and how can we pray for one

another this week?