Mark 9:1-29

*“Help my Unbelief”*

***Scripture:*** *Mark 9:1-29*

**Memory Verse:** *“Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.”* Mark 9:24b

**Lesson Focus:** To believe and know the real Jesus.

**Activities and Craft:** Coloring Picture, Work Sheet

Craft for 1st and 2nd graders: “Call on God” cups

**Introduction:**

 Ask the kids; “What things do you find hard to believe?

Let them give many different answers. Talk about their answers a little. Why it is hard to believe some times.

Then ask the kids; do you think God understands when we have a hard time believing?

Do you think it is ok to ask God to help us believe?

**Bible Study:**

Jesus is getting the disciples ready for when He dies on the cross and returns to heaven. There is a lot that they do not understand yet.

 **Mark 9:1;** “*Preparing the Disciples”*

√ Who did Jesus say would not taste death until something happened?

 √ What would happen? (That the “kingdom of God would be present with power.”)

 √ What did He mean? (He is talking about the resurrection.)

 **Mark 9:2-8;** *“The Transfiguration”*

√ Who did Jesus take up on the mountain with Him? (Peter, James and John)

 √ Do you think that is was fair that Jesus only took these three? Why or why not?

 √ What does it mean to be “transfigured?” (Metamorphosed – changed)

 For a little while the veil of Jesus’ humanity was lifted and the true Jesus shown

 through.

 √ Describe what Jesus looked like?

 Clothes shining – exceedingly white; (The word is translated to mean “bright as a flash of lightning.”) Matthew 17:2, tells us that His face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as light.”

They got to see the “true” Jesus. This is the glorified Jesus. Just as we cannot stare directly at the sun – Jesus was so bright that it was hard to look at Him. Jesus in a human body was what Jesus became in order to die on the cross for our sins. But Jesus in His glorified body is what He was before He came to earth and what He is now. This is the Jesus we will see in heaven.

 √ Who was with Jesus?

 Elijah and Moses

 √ Who are Elijah and Moses? (Aren’t they already dead? Moses had been dead over

 1,400 years and Elijah had been dead for over 400 years.)

 √ What were they doing with Jesus? (talking)

 √ What do you think they were talking about? We are not told in Marks account – but

Luke says “*The spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem*.”

 √ What does Peter say?

1. Peter answers (Was any question asked?)
2. Peter says that it is good for them to be there
3. Let us make three tabernacles to remember

√ Why did Peter say all of that? (Because he did not know what to say and he was

afraid.) Did he have to say anything? Why does Peter always have to talk? There are times we should stay quiet and just observe and listen. Peter still had to learn this.

 √ What appeared over them? (a cloud)

 √ Who spoke? (God)

 √ What did God say? (“This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!”

 God is telling these three men something important. Jesus is God’s Son. God

the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit…. the Trinity. They have an intimate relationship. God’s love for His Son is deep. God tells them to “listen.” Peter had just been talking when he needed to be quiet and listen and observe. Listening to God is one of the most important things we can do.

√ What are some ways we can listen to God?

 √ What happened after God spoke? (They looked around and only saw Jesus.)

 √ What did Jesus tell them in Mark 9:9? (That they should tell no one about what they

 saw until He rose from the dead.)

The writer of the book of Hebrews said this, “*God, who at various times and in*

*various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son…”* God has spoken in the past to Moses and Elijah. They represent the law and the prophets. But now God is speaking through His Son Jesus. We need to listen to Jesus and what God’s word says about Him and to live it out. Jesus expresses the truth of God! God loves us and God provided a way for the forgiveness of our sins.

 √ What did they not understand in Mark 9:10? (they did not understand what Jesus

 meant about “rising from the dead.”

But Peter will understand later, after the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He will tell

 us about his “eye witness” account of this in 2 Peter 1:16-18.

 **Mark 9:12-13;** *“Understanding Prophecy”*

 √ What are the disciples asking Jesus? (about Elijah)

 √ What did they want to know?) (Why Elijah was to come first?)

 √ Where can we find that in the Bible? (Malachi 4:5)

 √ What did Jesus tell them about Elijah?

1. That Elijah is coming first (before the Messiah)
2. That the Son of Man must suffer many things (Isaiah 53:3)
3. He tells them Elijah already has come….who is Jesus referring to? (John the Baptist)

**Mark 9:14-24**; *“Help my Unbelief”*

 √ What did Jesus see when he walked up to the other disciples?

1. A great crowd
2. The Scribes arguing with the disciples

√ How did the people respond when they saw Jesus? (they ran to him)

√ What did Jesus ask the Scribes? (what are you discussing with them)

√ Who answers Jesus? (a man in the crowd)

√ What did the man want? (his son healed from seizures)

√ Who did the man ask first to heal his son? (the disciples, but they could not)

√ What happened when the man was brought to Jesus? (He fell to the ground

 having a convulsion.)

√ What did Jesus ask the dad? (how long has this been going on? (since he was

 a child.)

 √ What did the “spirit” try to do to the child? (to kill him by throwing him into

 the fire or into water.)

 √ What does the father ask Jesus for? (compassion)

 √ What is compassion?)

 √ What does Jesus tell the father? (“If you believe, all things are possible to him

 who believes.”)

Does this mean that if we “believe” hard enough – that God will do

whatever we ask Him? No this is not a “magic-genie” verse. We cannot tell God what to do. But we can believe that God can do anything and then we can accept by faith whatever He chooses to do. Many people have abused by saying God will do what we want if we “believe” enough. This is not what Jesus is saying.

 √ What does the father cry out? (Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.)

 What an amazing statement. The father of the boy was genuine…he said

these words with tears. He believed…but he knew that he needed help to believe more. Do you think that it bothered Jesus that he asked for help in his unbelief? (No, Jesus knows that we need His help to believe and follow Him.)

 √ What does Jesus do? (call the unclean spirit to come out of the boy.)

 √ What happens to the boy? (The spirit comes out and convulses the boy so

 that they boy appeared dead.)

 √ What did Jesus do? (took the boy by the hand and lifted him up.)

 √ What did the disciples ask Jesus? (Why could we not do this?)

 √ What did Jesus say?

1. You need to pray
2. You need to fast

Maybe the disciples had forgotten to pray and ask God for the faith to cast out this demon. Faith comes through prayer! A true test of our spiritual life is our prayer life.

**Conclusion:**

1. What do you think of the “glorified” Christ of the transfiguration? Do you understand it?
2. When you have a hard time believing God – do you ask Him to “help your unbelief?”
3. Do you pray? How much? When? What can you do to pray more?