



2011

# **Go And Make Disciples**

**The Cross and Beyond**

## **Lesson 38:** **A Lesson in Faith and Prayer**

**Scripture**

Matthew 17:14-21  
 Mark 9:14-29  
 Luke 9:37-43

**Memory Verse**

Everything is possible for the one who believes.  
 Mark 9:23b (NIRV)

**Lesson Goals**

Understand that faith should be placed in Jesus Christ.

Understand that the power available to Jesus is also available to us.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

As we have been learning, the disciples have seen some pretty amazing things. They have seen Jesus heal the lame, give sight to the blind and free others from demons. They have seen thousands fed and they have seen Jesus walk on water. And then, Peter, James and John saw Jesus changed before their very eyes.

How many of you have heard teachers or friends talk about amazing things in the world or in history? Did you learn from what they were talking about or was it just a nice story? The disciples saw many things, too, but were they learning? It is one thing to see something happen. It is another thing completely to learn a lesson from it. Let's see where we left off in these lessons of discipleship from Jesus to His disciples.

After Jesus was changed on the mountain top, He came down from the mountain with Peter, James and John. They went where the other disciples were and saw a large crowd that had gathered around them. The teachers of the law were arguing with the disciples, but those who had gathered around to listen went running toward Jesus.

As Jesus got closer, He asked what the argument was about. "A man in the crowd answered. 'Teacher,' he said, 'I brought you my son. He is controlled by a spirit. Because of this, my son can't speak anymore.'" (Mark 9:17 NIRV) The father continued explaining that his son was tormented by the spirit that controlled him. He had been this way since he was a young child. Sometimes he would be thrown into the fire, sometimes into the water. Sometimes he would just be thrown to the ground where he would foam at the mouth and grind his teeth. And then the father got to the point of Jesus' question. He said, "I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit. But they couldn't do it." (Mark 9:18b NIRV)

Jesus scolded them. They should have learned from Him that nothing is impossible with God. He had been showing them the power of God. They didn't pray, or talk to God, and because of that they didn't access the power that was theirs. They didn't trust God to help them. Then Jesus asked the boy to come to Him.

As they brought the boy to Jesus, the spirit in him revolted. The spirit threw the boy into a fit and he fell to the ground. He even rolled around and foamed at the mouth. The spirit within this boy knew that his time was short, because he understood the power Jesus had. The father, on the other hand, said to Jesus, "If you can do anything, take pity on us. Please help us." (Mark 9:22b NIRV)

### Application

Our memory verse says, “Everything is possible for the one who believes. (Mark 9:23b Nlrv)

Do you really believe that? Do you believe nothing is impossible for God? Well, of course! And when we choose to follow God, what happens to us? What do we receive?

The Holy Spirit, right? Is the Holy Spirit another God? No. The Holy Spirit is part of God. We explain that by talking about the Trinity: God, the Father; God, the Son, Jesus; and God, the Spirit, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings to us the power of God.

So if you are a believer, you have access to all the power that Jesus has access to. Will you be believing or unbelieving?

Maybe you have never trusted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. You can believe that He is God and that He is all-powerful, but if you never “make Him your own” none of that information matters much. Will you let me talk with you?

“If you can’?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for the one who believes.” (Mark 9:23 Nlrv)

“Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, ‘Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!’” (Mark 9:24 NKJV) At that moment, even though Jesus’ disciples had failed him, this father knew that Jesus would not. He put his faith in the One who created the heavens and the earth. Was anything too difficult for Him? Absolutely not! But even in this new step of faith, there was still a little unbelief there somewhere. And this father did what we should all do when we don’t believe and doubt; He asked Jesus to help him.

As the crowd ran over to see what was happening, Jesus “ordered the evil spirit to leave the boy. ‘You spirit that makes him unable to hear and speak!’ He said, ‘I command you, come out of him. Never enter him again.’” (Mark 9:25 Nlrv) And even though the leaving was violent, the spirit obeyed Jesus. He had to! The boy was healed at that very moment. He was limp when it was over, though. Many thought he might be dead, but Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up. He gave the boy back to his father and everyone there was “amazed at God’s greatness.” (Luke 9:43 Nlrv)

When Jesus went indoors, His disciples followed. They wanted to know why they hadn’t been able to drive out the evil spirit. Jesus told them, “This kind can come out only by prayer.” (Mark 9:29 Nlrv) “Your faith is much too small.” (Matthew 17:20 Nlrv) Faith the size of a small mustard seed is enough. Then you will be able to tell this mountain, “Move.” “And it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” (Matthew 17:21 Nlrv)

### Preparing for the Next Lesson

Lessons in Humility and Forgiveness



# Preschool Lesson

## Teachers:

Bring a mustard seed to class.

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After Jesus was changed on the mountain top, He came down from the mountain with Peter, James and John. They went to where the other disciples were and saw a large crowd.

As Jesus got closer, He heard an argument and asked what the argument was about. "A man in the crowd answered. 'Teacher,' he said, 'I brought you my son. He is controlled by a spirit. Because of this, my son can't speak anymore.'" (Mark 9:17 NIV) The father continued explaining that his son was sometimes hurt by the spirit that controlled him. He had been this way since he was a young child. And then the father really answered Jesus' question. He said, "I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit. But they couldn't do it." (Mark 9:18b NIV)

Jesus got on to them. They should have learned from Him that nothing is impossible with God. They didn't even bother talking to God in prayer and they didn't trust Him to help them. Then Jesus asked the boy to come to Him.

As they brought the boy to Jesus, the father said, "If you can do anything, take pity on us. Please help us." (Mark 9:22b NIV)

"If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for the one who believes." (Mark 9:23 NIV)

"Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, 'Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!'" (Mark 9:24 NKJV) At that moment, this father knew that Jesus could do anything and he believed. And even though he doubted a little, he asked Jesus to help him.

As the crowd ran over to see what was happening, Jesus "ordered the evil spirit to leave the boy. 'You spirit that makes him unable to hear and speak!' He said, 'I command you, come out of him. Never enter him again.'" (Mark 9:25 NIV) The spirit obeyed Jesus. He had to! The boy was healed at that very moment and everyone there was "amazed at God's greatness." (Luke 9:43 NIV)



## Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Make a Bible verse acrostic. Print the word “EVERYTHING” down the left side of a piece of paper. Finish the verse along the bottom of the paper, including the reference. Using the letters of the word “EVERYTHING” write out some of the things that are possible when we believe. Begin each with the letters e, v, e, etc.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring pretzels and pigs in a blanket for a snack today. Eat these with mustard and talk about the size of a mustard seed.
- Re-enact the lesson.
- Sing “Trust and Obey,” “Faith, Faith, Faith,” “Have Faith in God,” or another song related to the lesson.
- Talk about the difference between the small size of a mustard seed and the greatness of the tree that grows from it. Provide a picture.
- Dig Deeper: Charles Haddon Spurgeon, in a sermon based solely on Mark 9:24, “Doubts are among the worst enemies of your souls. Do not entertain them.” Discuss this in light of the lesson. Talk about the doubts (unbelief, lack of faith) in the disciples and the father. Make applications to daily life.

**EVERYTHING**

is possible for  
the one who  
believes.

Mark 9:23

Trace the letters.

DO YOU

BELIEVE

# Focus on the Story

○  
**Story Title:**

**Scripture References:**

**Main Characters:**

**Story Summary:**

When?

○  
Where?

What?

How?

○





# Word Search

K Y B D R W O S U L W N R F M  
C H E E N G O D S M O R K O Y  
E E L I B E L I E V E S R R T  
V W I F L N I B E L I E V E S  
G S E V E I L E B H I V T B E  
E E V R C B E L I E V E S E V  
E V E M A N R I O Y S I Y L E  
R E S B E L I E V E S L D I I  
U I I E T U C V V N E E A E L  
O L T V P P R E R P V B Y V E  
B E L I E V E S E V E I L E B  
L B E L I E V E S W I F L S M  
T N E S S S E V E I L E B H T  
O G Y O B E L I E V E S T H W  
M L O S E V E I L E B M S H F

How many times can you find the word “BELIEVE” from the memory verse in the puzzle above?

“Everything is possible for the one who **believes.**”  
Mark 9:23



# Word Search

K Y B D R W O S U L W N R F M  
C H E E N G O D S M O R K O Y  
E E L I B E L I E V E S R R T  
V W I F L N I B E L I E V E S  
G S E V E I L E B H I V T B E  
E E V R C B E L I E V E S E V  
E V E M A N R I O Y S I Y L E  
R E S B E L I E V E S L D I I  
U I I E T U C V V N E E A E L  
O L T V P P R E R P V B Y V E  
B E L I E V E S E V E I L E B  
L B E L I E V E S W I F L S M  
T N E S S S E V E I L E B H T  
O G Y O B E L I E V E S T H W  
M L O S E V E I L E B M S H F

How many times can you find the word “BELIEVE” from the memory verse in the puzzle above? (17 times)

“Everything is possible for the one who **believes.**”  
Mark 9:23



# Preschool Word Search

P R A E S R Y A G A I N  
E I D I S C I P L E S D  
H A P E M J E S O N W S  
B P E P R A Y D E S U S  
J A W O M H E A S Y L S  
E J E S U S S E S R S S  
S T R U L T I F L Y R E  
B E L I E V E R I S T D  
M E L I J A H T E R T S  
D S E R E G T E R R B N  
L C A E L R E N E R S J  
H S O N O F A T H E R T

JESUS

DISCIPLES

FATHER

SON

BELIEVE

PRAY



# Preschool Word Search

P R A E S R Y A G A I N  
E I **D I S C I P L E S** D  
H A P E M J E **S O N** W S  
B P E **P R A Y** D E S U S  
J A W O M H E A S Y L S  
E **J E S U S** S E S R S S  
S T R U L T I F L Y R E  
**B E L I E V E** R I S T D  
M E L I J A H T E R T S  
D S E R E G T E R R B N  
L C A E L R E N E R S J  
H S O N O **F A T H E R** T

JESUS

DISCIPLES

FATHER

SON

BELIEVE

PRAY