



UNLEASHING HOPE

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS | Raise Your Expectations - Mark 9:14-29

“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26

WELCOME

- ◆ Spend a few moments greeting everyone in the group.

PRAYER EXPERIENCE

- ◆ **Group Worship & Prayer—10 minutes**

Read Psalm 8 aloud as a group.

Spend some time in prayer praising God and worshipping Him for who He is.

- ◆ **Individual Prayer Time—15-30 minutes**

Encourage group members to find some quiet space to be alone. During this time they will do the following:

Read [Mark 9:14-29](#) or [John 14:1-14](#).

As you meditate on the verses, pray and ask God what impossible things or greater things He wants to do in you or through you.

- ◆ **Debrief as a Group and Share any Insights from your Individual Prayer Time—10 minutes**

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS—30 minutes

ICE BREAKER/INTRODUCTION QUESTIONS

- ◆ When is the last time you went to a restaurant or a store and someone exceeded your expectations? Or they came up significantly short of what you expect service to be? Explain.
- ◆ When have you seen God do something impossible? Briefly describe the circumstances.

DISCUSSION

1. The Scriptures are full of stories about God doing the impossible. What are some of your favorite “impossible stories” from the Bible?

2. Prior to our passage this week, word of Jesus’ power to heal had spread. For context, briefly read [Mark 2:1-12](#) and [Mark 5:21-42](#). What expectations did the people who sought Jesus for healing have? How did their expectations differ from those of the teachers of the law (see Mark 2:5-7; 5:27-28, 36-40)? What were the expectations of those who believed based on? How did Jesus respond to those who believed?

3. Read [Mark 9:14-24](#). What are the man and the disciples arguing about? What does this argument tell you about the man's determination to help his son? What does Jesus say they are lacking (see verse 19)? Why do you think Jesus is feeling impatient or disappointed with the man and His disciples?

4. What does vs. 23 tell us about Jesus' expectations for those who believe He is the Son of God? How does the father respond in vs. 24? Have you ever felt like this father? Describe the circumstances where you wanted the faith to believe in the impossible.

5. Read [Mark 9:25-29](#). How did Jesus respond to the father's plea for more faith? What does this tell you about the father's faith? What does this tell you about Jesus' desire to build our faith?

6. Describe a time in your own life where you have had faith in the face of overwhelming circumstances. Describe a time when it has been hard to have faith because of your circumstances.

7. Why do you think many Christians have stopped believing Jesus can do the impossible in their lives? What has happened to their expectations? What does it mean to you that Jesus has the power and authority to do the impossible? What are some ways you can invite Jesus to help you overcome your unbelief?

8. What impossible things do you want to lay before God? How can focused prayer help you see your circumstances from God's perspective? How does believing in Jesus give you hope in the impossible?

9. Who can you share your hope in Jesus with? How can your experience of God doing the impossible help you share this message? What steps can you take to start this conversation with this person? How can you deal with those things that hinder you from sharing your story of God's power to do the impossible in your life?

PRAYER—15 minutes

- ◆ Spend a few minutes sharing prayer requests. Then pray for each other to grow in faith and hopeful expectation that God can and will do the impossible. Also ask God to do the impossible in our church, our community and our world.
