



Sermon-based Guide
Questions for Reflection and Discussion
Week of May 9
Belief in the Divine Encounter

Scripture: Mark 9:17-29

Sermon Themes

- Man brings son to Jesus to be healed
- Disciples can't heal him
- Why couldn't disciples heal him? Needs prayer
- Jesus says, if you believe he will be healed
- Father says, I believe, help my unbelief—essential point
- Intersection between hope and fear

Questions

1. The father starts his explanation to Jesus by saying that the disciples (without the presence of Jesus) could not heal his son. Where have you experienced inadequacy because Jesus was not present (or central)?
2. Like the healing of the woman with bleeding (scripture text for Brad's sermon two weeks ago), Jesus asks the father a question, "How long has this been happening to him?" Jesus seems genuinely interested to hear our stories—and in hearing our stories to hear our hearts. How free do you feel in telling Jesus your story? Do you freely share with Jesus what is truly on your heart? In what ways might you be holding back? Why?
3. Jim Edwards, in his commentary on this passage in Mark says, "True faith is always aware how small and inadequate it is." That sums up will the honest cry of the boy's father, "I believe; help my unbelief!" Does the honesty of the father give you hope for your own faith? Can you relate that to something in your own life now or in the past?