

Life Group Guide

Week 1 – A Relentless Climb

Ice Breakers:

1. Why do the answers (no, not yet, and yes) we give our children seem to frustrate us when they are the same answers God gives us?

Opening Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the preconceived assumptions you have about money and the Church?
2. What is a negative experience you have had regarding giving in the Church?
3. What is a positive experience you have had regarding giving in the Church?

Further Discussion from Scripture:

Read each Scripture passage below and discuss the questions as a group. You may want each group member to journal their answer first in the lines provided below before discussing together, to encourage everyone to participate more deeply.

GOD CALLS US TO THINGS WE CANNOT YET SEE

MATTHEW 17:14-21

And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him, said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he has seizures and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

1. How do we reconcile what appears to be a rebuke by Jesus to His disciples for their “little faith” (v. 20) with His statement that faith the size of a tiny “mustard seed” can move mountains?

2. Look at Jesus’ response—”O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you?” (v. 17)— Investigate the tension between Christ’s divine patience and His holy grief over spiritual blindness and human unbelief.

3. In what ways should the promise that “nothing will be impossible for you” (v. 20) be understood within the broader context of God’s sovereign will and biblical dynamic of prayer? Discuss the boundaries between literal, metaphorical, and covenantal interpretations of “moving mountains” in our Christian faith.

GOD DOES NOT WANT GENEROSITY FROM US. HE WANTS IT FOR US.

Mark 9:20-27

And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "'If you can!' All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

This step of faith for Hill Country Bible Church Georgetown is the largest thing we have ever done as a church. It will literally change our church, and it is a risk we are willing to take, considering God's word and God's leading.

4. How would your generosity be affected if you had a full view of what it looks like to truly follow God, like the man kneeling before Jesus? What would giving generously, considering that, mean?

5. Why does Jesus challenge the father’s phrase “If you can”? What does this teach us about how we approach God with our needs?

6. What would your story of generosity look like in order to create a witness that honors and draws more people to Him during this Relentless season?
