

Mark's Wild Gospel

Week 7 – Wild Belief

1. Share a time when your life was transformed by an experience of the presence God. What changed in your life because of that experience and how has the course of your life been altered?
2. Read Mark 9:2-13. Why is it significant that God wants them to listen, and not just look?
3. Why do you think the disciples are having such a difficult time believing Jesus' teaching that he must suffer and die? In what way do people still struggle with that notion today?
4. In what sense was Jesus changed in the transfiguration, and in what sense was He unchanged?
5. How is Jesus, in their conversation descending the mountain, continuing to shape the disciples' understanding of, and expectations around, his mission and ministry? How might Jesus be reshaping their understanding of what it will mean to continue to follow him? How is God inviting you to grow/change based on your increasing awareness of the mission of Jesus in the world?
6. Read Mark 9:14-29. What did Jesus grieve about concerning his generation (v.19)? What effect does unbelief have on people today? What do Jesus' words "Bring the boy to me" mean to us (v.19b)? How did Jesus engage the problem (vs.20-22)?
7. How did Jesus challenge this father (v.23)? What did Jesus teach the man about faith? How did the man accept Jesus' words (v.24)?
8. How can we overcome unbelief? What do you think Jesus wants us to believe?
9. Why couldn't the disciples drive out the evil spirit? What does Jesus' reply reveal about the relationship between the work of the disciples, the place of prayer and the work of Jesus?