

FOR THE SON OF MAN
CAME TO SEEK AND
TO SAVE THE LOST

PURPOSE VISION VALUES

ENCOUNTERING JESUS

NOT SO WITH YOU. INSTEAD, WHOEVER
WANTS TO BECOME GREAT AMONG YOU MUST
BE YOUR SERVANT
HOW ARE YOU GOING
TO RESPOND

REJECT HIM

2 NEPHI 3:22-4:9
ACCEPT HIM

STUDY GUIDE



my mouth unto their brethren who are the first of thy house and the words of their words will make strong in their faith and shall not be forgotten. And he said unto them, Behold, I have given you this book, which is the book of old prophecies.
23 Wherefore, because of this commandment I bless for thy seed shall not be forgotten. And he said unto them, Behold, I have given you this book, which is the book of old prophecies.
24 And now, I say unto you, one must be born again, and shall do much more than I have said, and indeed, I say unto you, in the hands of the Lord, and do that which he will, in the sight of God, unto the fulfilling of his promise, and unto the seed of thy brethren.
25 And now, blessed art thou, Joseph, Behold, thou art little; wherefore hearken unto the words of the Lord, and shall

For behold, I say unto you, I will give unto you the words of the Lord, and shall do much more than I have said, and indeed, I say unto you, in the hands of the Lord, and do that which he will, in the sight of God, unto the fulfilling of his promise, and unto the seed of thy brethren.
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Behold, my son, I say unto you, I will give unto you the words of the Lord, and shall do much more than I have said, and indeed, I say unto you, in the hands of the Lord, and do that which he will, in the sight of God, unto the fulfilling of his promise, and unto the seed of thy brethren.
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WELCOME

This guide is designed to help you to get the most out of our time together studying and applying some life changing encounters with Jesus. It is intended to be used with a small group but can also be done individually. The guide contains space for you to take notes from the sermon each week and then has 5 days of devotional content that will be on the same passage as the sermon. Each of these days includes questions for you to meditate on as you consider how to apply God's Word to your life.

The guide also includes Small Group Questions so that you can discuss the things that you are learning with other believers. We are praying that these times in your small groups deepen your relationships with other followers of Jesus and also spur you on to walk closer to God!

One way to discuss it over the summer is to invite a few friends to go through the guide with you! You can meet with people over lunch on Sunday afternoons and talk through the small group questions and what you learned during the sermon.

We want this study to be helpful for your journey following Jesus, so we compiled some tips that will help you.

- Start your times with God in prayer each day!
- Always read the Scripture for the day first. If you only have time for one thing, it should be God's Word! Then read through the devotional and reflect on the challenges at the end.
- Apply God's Word with specific action steps.
- Rejoice when God gives you the strength to meet your goal!
- Share your goal with your group so they can help you and encourage you!

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What point challenged you the most in this week's sermon?
2. When is a time when you felt helpless in a situation?
3. What has God done in your life that you could not have achieved on your own?
4. How do you grow your belief in God and His promises?
5. Parents - How do you model for your children a reliance on Jesus?
6. What specific step can you take this week to apply God's Word to your life?

When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. “What are you arguing with them about?” he asked. A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.” “You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.” “If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.” Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.”

Mark 9:14-29

Helplessly going to Jesus

Day 11

Read: Mark 9:14-29

This father went to Jesus, having nowhere else to go, and nothing else to do, begging for Jesus to bring healing to his son. The father has been living with a demon possessed son for many years. This has been a serious problem and he is looking for help. He asks Jesus to help him and his son. He has nowhere else to turn.

The cry of the father here asking for help is one that we should all imitate as we approach God. The Psalms are filled with prayers of God to help in the midst of struggles (Ps 22:19, 28:2, 33:20). God wants us to come to Him when we cannot do it ourselves. He wants to save us when we realize that we cannot save ourselves. The father in Mark 9 has reached that point. He cries out to Jesus for help.

Too often when we need help we go to things other than God. We go to things that will make us numb or distract us from our painful reality. We want to be healed, but we don't think that there is anyway for that to happen, so instead we self-medicate and head toward entertainment, alcohol, earthly relationships, shopping, or anything that we think can take the pain away. But God is the only one who can heal our hurting souls.

We instead need to run to God. Call on our Father to heal us. Ask Jesus to be with us while we hurt. We need to read through the Psalms that ask God to be our refuge, our strength, our fortress, and our hope.

Meditation:

What earthly thing do you turn to for peace or comfort?

Why do you not turn to God? Are you angry with Him?

Read Psalm 88 and 91.

When you talk to God do you get as real with Him as the psalmist in Ps 88? Do you believe that God will answer you and rescue you like Psalm 91 talks about?

I believe, help my unbelief

Day 12

Read: Mark 9:14-29

Have you ever asked anyone “Can I have a cup of water?” And they responded, “I don’t know, CAN you?” They are trying to correct your grammar in your moment of thirst. The correct phrasing is “May I...” But, this correction usually does not feel loving or helpful. This is not what Jesus is doing when He repeats the man’s question “If you can.” Jesus’ point is not about grammar but about belief.

Jesus is exposing the man’s struggle with faith. The father has grown so tired because of everything that has happened with his son that he is not confident that there is a way out. He wants to see the light of Jesus healing his son, but he can’t. So, Jesus takes this opportunity to not only heal the child, but also begins working on the father’s heart in this amazing moment of vulnerability. Jesus says, “Everything is possible for one who believes.” Jesus wants the man to realize the power of God. The life changing, limitless power of God.

The man’s response is amazing. It’s a prayer and cry to God that all of us should imitate. “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief.” The father does not claim perfection, great faith, or that he deserves for his son to be healed. Instead, he just says that he believes, but he needs a lot of help. This is our position before God. We want to believe, but we need God’s help to overcome our unbelief.

Meditation:

Where are you not sure that you believe God?

Ask God to help you overcome your unbelief.

Write out the areas that you need God to work things out in your life and bring hope into situations that seem filled with darkness.

bringing those around you to Jesus

Day 13

Read: Mark 9:14-29

The way to life is only through Jesus Christ, and we should be bringing others to Him so that they may receive healing, joy, and peace. The father comes first to the disciples of Jesus and asks them to cast out the evil spirit, but they cannot do it. Both the father and the disciples are relying on Jesus to heal this boy. The disciple's inability to heal in their own power shows the superiority of Jesus. This is the reason that whenever someone we care about needs help and healing, we must take them to Jesus.

This means showing them the truth of God's Word that Jesus brought hope, life, and victory when He came to this earth. It means showing people that the answers they seek in their own struggles cannot be given by you but through following Jesus they can have life to the full (Jn 10:10). Jesus is life and when we try to help those we care about with human methods, ideas, or solutions, we fail to point them to the one who can heal, move mountains, and do miracles. Our advice for our friends, family, and everyone has to be rooted in pointing them to Jesus as their one and only hope.

This man brought his son to Jesus because he could not heal him. The disciples could not heal the boy and had to let Jesus step up. Let us follow their examples and not try to fix or heal in our own power. Instead, we should show people the ways of Jesus, and how He wants to be with them in the midst of their brokenness.

Meditation:

Who in your life do you need to point to Jesus?

What truth from God's Word can you show them that can give them hope that Jesus can bring victory?

How can you tell more of what Jesus has done in your life so that others will hear of His power?

Prayer

Day 14

Read: Mk 9:29, Mt 6:5-18

Jesus' words at the end of this passage magnify the importance of constant communion with God. The disciples were trying to understand why they could not cast out this demon, so they asked Jesus. His response was that it can only be cast out by prayer. But, wait, Jesus did not pray to cast it out.

So, what does he mean it can only be driven out with prayer? Did the disciples not pray for long enough when they were trying to cast it out? Or is there another point that Jesus is making?

Jesus throughout His life made time to remove Himself from the crowds to pray (Mk 1:35, Mk 6:46, Mk 14:32). He did this because He knew that His relationship with the Father was where His strength came from. Jesus was close relationally with His Father because of prayer.

This closeness is what Jesus tells His disciples they need. It's not about one prayer, or saying a long prayer in a moment of spiritual battle. In order to have victory over the enemy, we need to be in close communion with God and reliance on Him so that no matter what happens, Christ is our foundation. This is an amazing truth that should really challenge us and help us notice the correlation between close relationship with God and experiencing victory in our lives.

Meditation:

How much time do you spend talking and listening to God?

Do you feel like you are close to Him?

Read James 4:8. Spend some time praying right now and asking God to be close to you.

Parenting relying on God

Day 15

Read: Prov 22:6, Deut 6:4-9

This day is written for parents, for those who are bringing up their children and desire for them to walk in the ways of Jesus. This story gives so much hope for parents whether your child is struggling or thriving. No matter where your child is today, it probably did not take long on your parenting journey for you to realize that you were incapable of changing your kid's heart in your own power. You may have realized it when they were screaming in the middle of the night as an infant, when they threw a tantrum as a toddler, or when they rebelled against all of your rules as a teenager. No matter when you felt it, you have discovered that changing your child's heart is above your pay grade. That's a good thing!

This means that every parent is at some level just like the father in the story. We bring our kid(s) helplessly before Jesus and ask Him to work in their heart. We cannot change them no matter how hard we try. We need God to redeem and rescue them. This powerlessness is frustrating but it should also be freeing as we discover the love that God has for our children. We see that He loves them and wants to grow them. We pray constantly that He would grow them, use them, and save them! These cries to God are our job as parents. We need to stay close to God personally and in communion with Him as we ask Him to work miracles in our children.

As parents, the best thing we can do is to show our kids that Jesus loves them. That His ways are best for us and for them. And that we are committed to following Him. We then pray that as they see us live this way, God will open their eyes and hearts to also follow Jesus.

Meditation:

Do you entrust your children to God? Or are you still trying to change them yourself?

Is your life a good example for them of following Jesus? Are you close to God?

Do you pray for your children every day? Do you ask God to meet them where they are?