

From Mountain Tops To Mondays

“Case For Christ” Series, (A Study of Mark’s Gospel, part 31)

Insights from Mark 9:14-37

August 28, 2022, Pastor Bob Johnson, GPC

Unpacking the Passage:

(Matthew 4:24, Mark 6:7-13)

Fall Hurdles To Avoid:

1. **F** _____ **in** _____ .
(John 15:5, Colossians 2:6-7)

2. **F** _____ **on** _____ .
(Mark 9:22-24, Matthew 17:19-20)

3. **F** _____ **the** _____ .
(1 John 4:4, 1 Peter 5:8)

4. **F** _____ **on** _____ .
(Mark 9:30-37, Genesis 11:4, Ephesians 2:8-10)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our first week of our Fall Small Group Season at GPC! Our study and discussion this fall will be based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Case For Christ".

In this series, we are slowly unpacking the Gospel of Mark. Each week we will read and reflect on a passage from Mark's gospel and discuss ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

Now that summer is over :(, what are a few fun memories from the past few months that you will enjoy looking back on from time to time?

One of the "fall hurdles to avoid" mentioned last Sunday was "forgetting the opposition". Speaking of something or someone opposing you, what sport or experience can you think of where you either won or lost? What was one of your favorite 'victory memories' from your past?

Some of the best lessons come from losses in life.
Looking back, what have you learned from defeats or setbacks?

How have some experiences that have humbled you, actually helped develop you?

The opposite of humility is pride. Sadly, pride causes lots of problems. Can you think of any ways that you see pride, arrogance or an untamed ego showing up in the world around you?

What is the impact on relationships, work effectiveness, global stability or ministry growth from this display of pride?

One definition of humility is having an accurate view of ourselves - including our strengths, weaknesses and limitations. Is there one person who has modeled this sort of humility for you? If so, how did you or do you see humility demonstrated in their life?

Reviewing and Reflecting on last Sunday's Passage:

Let's read the main passage from last Sunday. (Mark 9:14-37)

After reading this passage and looking back on our notes from Sunday, was there a particular thought, verse or comment that caught your attention, challenged you or raised a question for you? What are some takeaways from these stories in regards to our faith?

Digging Deeper:

1. In Mark 9, the nine disciples who were unable to help the boy were more focused on their past accomplishments than continuing to rely on God's presence and power. Relying on self and focussing too much on ourselves is the essence of pride. Pride is an all too common struggle for most of us.

C.S. Lewis described pride as "the essential vice, the utmost evil ... the vice that leads to every other vice. It is the complete anti-God state of mind." The negative impact that pride can have is why the Bible has a lot to say about pride and arrogance.

What are some insights related to pride from the following verses:

Proverbs 11:2, Proverbs 13:10, Proverbs 16:18

How can insights from Romans 12:1-3 help us to counteract pride in our lives?

Pride has a way of attaching itself to certain areas of our lives like our reputation, possessions, strengths, and position.

In what ways have you dealt with pride in these or others ares of your life?

2. Even after several years of spending time with Jesus, we see in Mark 9, the early disciples still have a lot more maturing to do. The good news is that we see the disciples' maturity grow over time. Back then and today, no one becomes Christ-like in a day :). It is a lifelong process. Romans 8:29 talks about being conformed to the likeness of Jesus.

What insights do you see in the following verses to help us in becoming more like Jesus?

2 Corinthians 3:18, John 15:4-5, Matthew 11:29-30

Which of these verses is a special encouragement to you in your journey to become more like Christ?

3. The last "fall hurdle" to avoid that was highlighted last Sunday was focusing on how others can bless us rather than how we can bless others. This fall, opportunities to serve and impact others in small but significant ways occur around all of us every day. Let's read the classic story of the Good Samaritan and his unplanned opportunity to serve in Luke 10:25-37. As we read, let's share some insights that can help us be effective ministers this fall.

Wrapping Up:

What is an application from what we read or discussed together that you would like to practice in the coming days? Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for? Is there anything else on your heart that you would like to express prayer for?