

## Connecting

Have you ever participated in a trust exercise (a trust fall, walking on ice, bungee jumping...)? What was that like?

Do you have a favorite outdoor location where you feel close to God?

## Understanding

Read Mark 9:1-10. What do you think the disciples learned about Jesus? What are they still confused about regarding Jesus and his plans?

Read Mark 9:14-29. What does Jesus' interaction with the boy's father teach you about faith?

Why did the disciples have problems casting out the demon in this instance? What do you think Jesus wants them to understand about prayer?

## Living

Have you ever had a 'mountain-top' experience on your spiritual journey? How did that affect your faith? What did you learn at the bottom of the mountain that you didn't learn at the top?

If you grew up in the church, how did you experience doubt and how was doubt discussed?

Like the disciples, we live lives of faith mixed with unbelief. How do you experience these two concepts coexisting in your life?

Charles reminded us, "Pray is not a technique. Prayer is about connecting with God in a relationship of reliance." What do you think this means? How could this change the way you pray?

Spend some time praying for each member of your group, that he/she would grow in a more vibrant relationship with God and cultivate a rich prayer life.

**Next Week:** Mark 9:30–10:34. As you read the passage in your Mark journal, circle, underline, or highlight words that relate to stature or status.