



WARM UP QUESTION

What is usually your first response when you or someone close to you gets sick?

- 1** **Read Mark 9:14-18.** Where is Jesus returning from (see Mark 9:2-10)? Describe the scene He returns to. What do you imagine the disciples and teachers of religious law were arguing about? What's different about this evil spirit? How do the crowds respond to Jesus despite the chaos of the scene?
- 2** **Read Mark 9:19.** What do you imagine is Jesus' heart behind these exclamations? Remember where Jesus has just been. How is this reminiscent of Moses coming down from Mt. Sinai in Exodus 32? What do you learn about the kinds of things that make God angry? How is your own anger similar and different?
- 3** **Read Mark 9:20-24.** What has Jesus just lamented in verse 19 that He now also calls out in the father? Clearly this man has faith, or he wouldn't have brought his son to Jesus. How is faith in Jesus often the very thing that makes us conscious of our unbelief? Can you relate to the father? What do you think Jesus wants for him?
- 4** **Read Mark 9:25-27.** What has this passage indicated about the strength of this particular evil spirit? Jesus commands the evil spirit never to enter the boy again. Read Matthew 12:43-45. What keeps an evil spirit from returning to a person (see 1 John 4:4)?
- 5** **Read Mark 9:28-29.** What do you think the disciples were relying on to cast out the evil spirit, making them unsuccessful? How has their previous success at casting out evil spirits possibly led to this? What has this passage taught you about faith, belief, and relying on Jesus versus your own skills, gifts, and abilities?

RESPOND

What have you learned about God from His Word? How is He asking you to apply it to your life? When will you apply it?

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