

Union

C H U R C H

Groups | Only Get Worried When You Can See

Get Started

Welcome to Summer Groups!! We are excited to do life with you! We pray that you find community that will create lifelong friendships!

Icebreaker: What is a good thing happening in your life right now? What makes it good?

Start with Scripture

Mark 9:20-29 (NKJV) – 20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

21 So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?"

And he said, "From childhood. 22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us."

23 Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"

26 Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." 27 But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?"

29 So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

Make it Personal

This week, Pastor Stephen continued the series *Elementary*. The goal of this series is to increase our spiritual maturity with understanding of the fundamentals of faith as laid out in Hebrews 6:1. This week he unpacked the fundamental principle of *The Doctrine of Faith*. Pastor Stephen charges us to consider the idea that when we can't see, we are right where God wants us to be. Relinquishing control displays trust and allows God room to guide us around the 'blind corner'. Pastor Stephen broke down three ways to mature our faith.

Here are three thoughts we discussed

- Point 1: 'If' Should Never Be in My Vocabulary – When the father of the demon possessed boy came to Jesus for help, his approach in asking for deliverance displayed his lack of faith by saying "...if you can do anything"(v.22). Jesus responds with "...if you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes" (v.23). God can't respond to emotion, He only responds to faith.
 - Q – What resonated most with you from this part of the message?
 - Q – Read Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV). How does this scripture resonate with you?
 - Q – Read Genesis 1:26 (NKJV). How does this scripture reveal how God has informed how we operate on Earth?
 - Q – Read Romans 8:32 (NKJV) List 3 ways that God has demonstrated that He is for you.

- Point 2: He is a Promise Keeper, Not a Fantasy Fulfiller – Pastor Stephen reminds us to not hold God accountable to something He didn't promise. Unlike parents to their young children, God tells us everything that He promises and He keeps His promises.
 - Q – What resonated most with you from this part of the message?
 - Q – Read 2 Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV). How should we respond in faith to Gods, 'yes'? What does knowing God's 'yes' means 'yes' inform how you approach Him in prayer?
 - Q – Read Romans 10:17 (NKJV) What are some practical steps you can take to hear God's promises for you?

- Point 3: I Must Fight the Fight of Faith – Remaining faithful is a fight that often begins in the mind. In scripture, James tells us, 'But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.' James 1:6-8 (NKJV). Pastor

Stephen reminds us of the importance of anchoring our confidence in that God will do what He said.

- Q – What resonated most with you from this part of the message?
- Q – Read 1 Timothy 6:12 (NKJV). How does this scripture resonate with you in the aspect of remaining faithful?
- Q – How can your demonstration of faith in the promises of God be perceived as an effective or ineffective witness?

Takeaway Points:

- God can't respond to emotion, He only respond to faith
- Spend time with God to receive His promises for you. Don't hold God accountable to something He didn't promise.
- Anchor your confidence in what God will do.
- Praise God for what you are believing for Him to do.

Activity:

Give your groups 5 minutes to write down a practical next step from today's discussion.

Prayer Requests

- Ask your group members to share any prayer requests they have.
- Pray and close out your group.

Reminders

- Be sure to take attendance today!
- Continue to add and accept people to your group.
- Announcements:
 - Baptism Sunday & Growth Track Step 2 are happening this Sunday!
 - Serve Day is Saturday, July 13th! Register for a serve site here: [Serve Day - Union Church \(churchcenter.com\)](#)
 - Catalyst at the Arena (Chesapeake Arena) is happening on August 23rd! Get your tickets here: [Union Church Catalyst at the Arena Tickets Aug 23, 2024 Baltimore, MD | Ticketmaster](#)