Homegroup Questions

The aim of these questions is to remind us of what we have heard on Sunday mornings over the past month and to challenge us to think about application.

- Please do not feel that you need to plough through all the questions! You can be as selective as you like and even write some better ones if you wish.
- You might not want to try and cover everything. Feel free to just pick the last couple of Sundays – or perhaps one that really struck you.
- The study should last about 45 minutes because you want to leave time for prayer as well as refreshments and catching up with each other.

Mark 9

2-13 The mount of transfiguration.
The 3 disciples get a glimpse of Jesus’ divine glory.
Moses and Elijah appear and Peter wants to build 3 shelters for his heroes!
But the voice from the cloud says, “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to Him!” and they are left alone with Jesus.

Summary: Jesus supersedes all that has gone before. His the one we are to listen to.

Q What was wrong with Peter’s suggestion?

Q In what way does the word that Jesus brings supersedes all that has gone before in the Old Testament? Does this mean that we can ignore all that God has spoken before Him? What implications does this have for when we read the Old Testament?

Q What are some of the things that Jesus said which the world struggles to accept?

14-29 The Boy with the evil spirit.
They return to the other disciples and find that they have been unable to deliver this young boy from the spirit that is tormenting him.
Jesus remarks on the unbelief of this generation. It is not a case of IF Jesus can help, but whether this man believes in Him.
Jesus draws out this father’s faltering faith and commands the spirit to leave.

Summary: Everything is possible for him who believes (v23). It’s not about how much faith we have, but what (or who) we put our faith in. This is why prayer is such a powerful thing (v29).

Q Why did the disciples fail to help this family?

Q What does this story teach us about faith?

Q What does this story teach us about prayer?

30-36 Who is the greatest?
Jesus again foretells the suffering and death that lies ahead for Him. He has come to sacrifice Himself, not to assert His authority. But the disciples still don’t get it.
As they walk on to Capernaum they have an argument about which of them is the greatest, and when they arrive, Jesus talks about the issue! If you want to be first, you must be last and servant of all. Then using a little child as an illustration He goes on to demonstrate what this looks like – we are to welcome even the lowest and most insignificant brother or sister as if we were welcoming Him.

**Summary:** Greatness in God’s Kingdom is seen in putting yourself last and serving others.

**Q** Why do we find some people difficult to go the extra mile for?

**Q** What should be our motivation to do so?

**Q** Read Phil 2:4-11. What should our *attitude* be like when we serve others?

**Q** What do you find most challenging about Jesus’ teaching here?

### 38-50 Judging others and Judging yourself

The disciples want to put a stop to a ministry that is outside of their circle, but Jesus’ perspective it very different. We should be careful about judging any ministry that is truly done in the name of Christ. He goes on to warn them about how terrible it would be to cause someone who believes in Him to stumble. Jesus then proceeds to teach the disciples about putting their own sin to death.

**Summary:** We should be slow to judge others and quick to judge ourselves!

**Q** How do we make right judgements about whether to support ministries outside of our church circle? What are the pitfalls we need to be wary of?

**Q** Why does Jesus use such strong language when talking about sin in v42-48?

**Q** Is Jesus really saying that if His disciples fail to live sinlessly that they will “be thrown into hell?” How do we apply these verses in the light of Jesus forthcoming crucifixion and resurrection (cf 10:45)?