





COMMUNITY GUIDE

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WEEKLY APPLICATION

TAKEAWAY: Cynicism has leaked into both our culture and the church, leading to a lack of expectation for God's work.

HEAD CHANGE: Even small faith can lead to big results when tethered to Jesus.

HEART CHANGE: Faith is not just hopeless optimism, but complete dependence on God's goodness.

LIFE CHANGE: Joy is central to God's character and creation.

OVERVIEW

In this powerful message, we're challenged to confront the cynicism that's crept into our hearts and embrace a countercultural faith. The central theme revolves around our perception of God and how it impacts our faith. We're asked to consider: do we see God as joyful and good? We draw from various scriptures, particularly Mark 9, where a father says, 'I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief.'

This paradox of faith and doubt is presented as a common struggle, reminding us that it's okay to have both belief and uncertainty. The message emphasizes that faith isn't about having all the answers, but about trusting in God's goodness and power. We're encouraged to resist cynicism and believe that God can still do miraculous things in our lives and communities. This perspective shift can transform how we approach prayer, relationships, and our daily walk with God.

"He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this."

Matthew 17:20

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How have you seen cynicism affect your own faith or the faith of those around you?
2. The sermon mentions that "joy is woven into the fabric of God's creation." How does this perspective challenge or affirm your view of God?
3. How might our view of God impact our ability to have faith for His work in our lives and community?
4. What areas of your life or community do you find it hardest to have faith for God's intervention? Why?

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Lord, we confess that sometimes our cynicism overshadows our faith. Help us to see You as You truly are – full of joy and goodness. Increase our faith, even if it's as small as a mustard seed. We choose to depend on You completely and resist the cynicism of our culture. Show us Your power and goodness in tangible ways this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.

IN THIS TOGETHER!