

Challenges in the Valley

Luke 9:37-45

LG Questions for 03.14.10

Getting Started

- 1) **My Valley.** Last week our study focused on the experience of Peter, James, and John on the mountaintop with Jesus. This week we read about the challenge they faced when they returned to the valley. Begin your study by describing the last time you came down from a spiritual mountaintop and found yourself in the valley. What brought your spiritual high to an end, and what did you do to get back on the mountaintop?

Getting into the Bible

- 2) **The Problem. Read Luke 9:37-45.** The Bible warns us about 3 spiritual enemies: the world, the flesh, and the devil. Which of these 3 enemies were the disciples forced to face in the valley? What do you think the hardest thing about this encounter would have been? Why were the 9 disciples who remained in the valley unable to meet the need of this father and his son? **See Mark 9:14-22 and Matthew 17:14-21** for additional insights.
- 3) **The Timing. Reread Luke 9:37-41.** The devil knows our weaknesses and attacks us when and where we're the most vulnerable. What made the 9 disciples who remained in the valley especially vulnerable to his attack? How would his timing have been equally hard on the disciples who were returning from the mountaintop? What lessons can you draw from this about the tactics he will likely use to attack you, and what steps will you take to resist him? **See 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 and James 4:1-10** for additional help.
- 4) **The Solution.** Read the longer version of this miracle in **Mark 9:20-29**. According to Jesus, what do we need in order to win a major victory like this over the devil? Explain. How do we go about developing this inner quality? **See Matthew 17:20-21** for answers.

Getting Personal and Practical

- 5) **My Challenge.** Jesus says there are some demons that are more difficult to overcome than others. Describe the greatest challenge you're facing in your life today. How could faith help you overcome it, and what steps will you take to strengthen your faith?