



Welcome

SERIES: I DOUBT IT

Message: I Believe He Can
Dr. Lance Watson, Senior Pastor

PRAYER: Gracious and All-Powerful God, we hear the words of Jesus echoing through the ages: *Everything is possible for one who believes.* We desperately want to stand on that promise. We acknowledge that You are not a God of "ifs." You are the God of the definitive, the Creator who speaks light into darkness and brings life from death. We praise You because Your power is not limited by our circumstances, our logic, or the size of the mountains standing in our way. We confess that often we doubt, but we pray that where we see dead ends, you will give us the vision to see Your new paths. Where we feel fear, replace it with the confidence of Your presence. Where we have settled for less, expand our hearts to believe in the "everything" You have promised. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

ICEBREAKER: Has anything unbelievable ever happened in your life?

INTRODUCTION: A troubled father brings his sick son to the disciples of Jesus to be healed, but they are powerless to do so. Bringing him to Jesus, Jesus promptly identifies their lack of faith and reliance on prayer as the root of their powerlessness. Jesus then encourages this desperate father with the promise that "everything is possible for one who believes," validating that even honest, imperfect faith can invite the miraculous. Jesus affirms believing as not a passive state, but as an active dependence on God that requires us to stretch beyond our limited understanding.

BIBLE STUDY: Read **Mark 9:23b**: Everything is possible for one who believes.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. **What was your biggest takeaway from the message?** What's one thing you learned? What questions came to mind as you listened to the message? What points did you find most insightful?
2. **The Language of "If":** In verse 22, the father asks Jesus, *"But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."* Why do we often approach God with "ifs" (if You are willing, if You are able) rather than "sinces"? How does our current life situation influence the way we frame our requests to Him?
3. **The "Everything" Promise:** Jesus responds in verse 23 by saying, *"Everything is possible for one who believes."* Does this mean faith is a "magic key" to getting exactly what we want, or is Jesus inviting us into a different kind of perspective? How do we reconcile this verse with times when we believed deeply but the outcome wasn't what we hoped for?

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4. **The Honesty of Doubt:** The father famously cries out, *"I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"* How does it feel to know that Jesus performed the miracle **after** the father admitted his faith was imperfect? Discuss a time when you felt like you were "halfway" between belief and doubt—how did God meet you there?
5. **The Role of Prayer:** When the disciples asked why they couldn't drive out the spirit, Jesus replied, *"This kind can come out only by prayer"* (v. 29). How does a consistent life of prayer build the "muscle" of faith? Why do you think Jesus connects our ability to believe with our intimacy with God through prayer?

CHALLENGE: Rate your prayer life on a scale of 1-10 with 10 being excellent and 1 being poor. What one step can you take to enhance your prayer life this week?

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Take this time to share group announcements. Church wide and campus specific announcements can be found at www.myspbc.org. You can also “find, follow and like” our Facebook page at facebook.com/myspbc. Turn on your notifications.

CELEBRATIONS: Take this time to share praise reports (e.g. answered prayers, birthdays, anniversaries, promotions).

PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAYER: Take this time to share prayer requests. Close with prayer.

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We Care!

NOTICE: As a small group leader, we depend on you to show members that we care. Here's a list of resources to help you.

FOR PRAYER:

CALL: 804.463.2472

EMAIL: prayer@myspbc.org.

FOR COUNSELING:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org

TO REQUEST A HOSPITAL VISIT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (For Emergencies)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST FUNERAL SUPPORT:

CALL: 804.304.3890 (Pastor On Call)

EMAIL: ecare@myspbc.org.

TO FIND A SUPPORT GROUP:

CALL: 804.643.6177

EMAIL: care@myspbc.org.

TO REQUEST EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

CALL: 804.643.4000

EMAIL: emergencyassistance@myspbc.org.

TO CONTACT MY LIFE STAGE PASTOR: CALL: 804.643.4000 and Press 1 for the Dial by Name Directory

EMAIL:

- Imagination (0-10): Vernita Williams: Vernita.Williams@myspbc.org
- SMB (11-19): Martina Jones-Smith: Martina.Jones-Smith@myspbc.org
- Dreamchasers (20-29): Juan Shackelford: juan.shackelford@myspbc.org
- Aspire (30-39): Lance Watson, Jr.: lance.watsonjr@myspbc.org
- Fusion (40-49): Michelle Townsend: michelle.townsend@myspbc.org
- Encore (50-59): Lisa Johnson: lisa.johnson@myspbc.org.
- Prime Time (60-69): Maceo Freeman: maceo.freeman@myspbc.org
- Refiners (70+): Roscoe Jones: roscoe.jones@myspbc.org

*GPS is a study guide based on the weekend message. The purpose of this guide is to assist small groups in study.
Previous GPS Guides are available online at www.myspbc.org.*



Small Group Leader Guide

Would you like to START or JOIN a Small Group at Saint Paul's?

Most existing groups are open to new group members, and new groups begin on a regular basis. If you have friends in a small group, ask about joining their group. If you are new to Saint Paul's and are looking for a place to connect, please feel free to contact us and we will do our best to help you find the right group.

Leader Tips:

The GPS document is a guide for discussion. Don't feel like you must use every question. Some questions will take a while to work through while others will be over in a few seconds!

1. Don't teach the lesson. The lesson was taught on the weekend. Just ask questions and let everyone else talk.
2. Let other people ask questions. It's OK to go "off topic" for a while. Sometimes those conversations are more interesting anyway!
3. Have fun. Relationships, not curriculum, are the heartbeat of our small groups. So, have fun with the people in your group.

Agenda for a Small Group Gathering

Gathering Time

Take 5-10 minutes to welcome everyone, catch up and if planned, share some food!

Discussion Time

Here's a suggested format:

1. **Ice Breaker** – Lighthearted icebreaker question (5-10 min.)
2. **Discussion** - Discussion time, Bible study, application challenge (30-40 min.)
3. **Prayer** – Prayer requests and praying for one another (10-20 min.)
4. **Planning** – Remind the group of how we serve together (e.g. usher, sing, greet, pray, etc.)