



*Pointers and questions on the Gospel of*

# MARK

## Session 6

**9:1 - 10:16**

### Summary

- 9:1-13** Jesus is transfigured in the presence of Peter, James and John.
- 9:14-32** Jesus expels a demon from a boy and explains why the disciples had failed to do it.
- 9:33-50** Conversations between Jesus and his disciples on a variety of subjects.
- 10:1-16** The subject of divorce, and Jesus' welcome for young children.

### Questions to get you thinking

1. In what way do you think 9:1 is connected with the account of the transfiguration that immediately follows it?
2. What could have been the significance of the appearance of Moses and Elijah (9:4-5) with Jesus on the mount of transfiguration?
3. Peter wanted to stay up there (9:5-6), enjoying this 'high' spiritual experience, but Jesus brought them down again to the everyday world (v9). Talk about your own spiritual 'highs'. Why do such experiences have to come to an end?
4. The Elijah who appeared in 9:4 was the Old Testament prophet. But who was the 'Elijah' the disciples and Jesus discussed in v11-13?
5. How true is it that, in spiritual conflicts, things sometimes get worse before they get better? Talk about this especially in the light of 9:20, 25-26.
6. Do the words of the boy's father to Jesus (9:22) indicate great faith? Talk about the importance of faith in the light of v23-24.
7. What can we learn about spiritual pride from 9:33-37? How keen are *you* to be 'the greatest'?
8. Read 9:38-41. The Twelve criticised this man because he wasn't one of their inner circle, but Jesus supported him. What can we learn from this about our attitudes to Christians from other denominations, or those who don't share our background, style of worship or doctrinal position?
9. Do you think we should we take 9:43-48 literally?
10. The issue of divorce is a complex one. Look up the passage the Pharisees referred to in 10:4, which is Deuteronomy 24:1-4, part of God's law as given through Moses. But in 10:6-9 Jesus points them towards an even more fundamental passage. Where is it, and what does it present as God's ideal?
11. In 10:11-12 Mark records Jesus as affirming God's basic stance regarding divorce, while Matthew also notes the exception Jesus made—see Matthew 5:32. Should we as Christians be taking a stronger stand on this issue in view of the laxity in society at large?
12. How important are children in God's great scheme of things, according to 10:13-16? Do you need to make any adjustments in your attitude towards them, especially in the church?

