

# WHEN FAITH FAILS

MATTHEW 17:14-20

“Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them.”

-Elizabeth Elliott

## I. The Problem

## II. The Power

## III. The Promise

### **Into the Bible:**

1. If you read Matthew 10:1 and Luke 9:1-6 you can see that Jesus had already given his disciples the power to do miracles of healing and the power to cast out demons. No wonder they were confused at their lack of success. What does Jesus point to specifically that made them ineffective in this situation?

2. Christ tells his disciples that even a small faith placed correctly has the power to move mountains. Read Isaiah 40:3-5 and see how well his imagery echoes the prophet's description of the things that would accompany the arrival of the Messiah.

### **Application:**

3. What happens when we fervently pray for healing, and it does not occur? Is this always a failure on our part to have enough faith? Read Romans 9:14-16 and Psalm 115:1-3. What do we need to recognize about our prayers? Do we have faith (trust) in an understanding that God promises to do what we ask of Him, is our faith in the character of God himself? (Psalm 86:15)

### **For Families:**

4. Talk with your children about why we should trust God when he doesn't answer our prayers with what we asked for.