



Ask each of your group members to answer these questions before group time. This will help in guiding the discussion and most people will be prepared with an answer.

GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

DATE: 9/9/2018 - **21 Year Anniversary** | **Paul Richardson, Terence Lester, Brian Bloye**

MESSAGE SUMMARY: Happy 21 Years, West Ridge! Today we celebrate all that God has done through West Ridge in our community, country, and world. Pastor Paul took a moment to share about how Jesus is joyful when God's people do the work of the ministry. Pastor Terence talked about the desperation that can overwhelm us when things seem out of our control. He encouraged us that Jesus invites us to bring everything we face to Him. We should not run from the cross when we face hard times but towards it. Finally, Pastor Brian talked about faith. There is a moment in the Gospel of Mark that a man says to Jesus, "I believe; help my unbelief." If God is at the center, all things are possible. Fear is a very real emotion to experience, but we are commanded in Scripture to cast our burdens upon the Lord and He will sustain us. (Psalm 55:22)

Read Mark 9:14-30

**Have each group member find the scriptures in their own Bible and follow along or read aloud.*

Q1: Pastor Terence reminded us that there are things that will happen to us that are outside of our control. The only way to gain a victory is if God intervenes. Have you ever experienced this "Hail Mary" moment in your own life? Share with the group.

Q2: Desperation can lead you to two places: distraction and dependency on self; or to a place of intimacy and dependence on God. Which do you tend to do when you feel desperate?

Read Genesis 50:15-21

Q3: We are reminded in Genesis 50:20 that God brings Himself glory through bad or difficult circumstances. How does this truth from Scripture challenge you?

Q4: Pastor Brian reiterated that all things are possible for the one who believes. It is easy to say we believe when everything is going our way. Have you ever cried out in prayer to God — I believe, but help my unbelief? What circumstance or situation caused you to pray that prayer?

Read Genesis 32:24-29

Q5: There are times when the blessings of God are only poured out on us after a time of wrestling with Him. Have you ever wrestled, or are you currently wrestling with God over something? How can our group pray for you specifically?