



# THE COUNSELOR

## WEEK TWO - DO YOU BELIEVE THAT I CAN DO THIS?

1. Who do you believe would win the following match-ups?
  - The Flash vs. the Hulk
  - Angry Birds vs. Mario
  - Captain Kirk vs. Hans Solo
  - Wolverine vs. Freddy Krueger
2. In real life, what does it mean when someone believes in you? How does this make you feel?

Read Luke 24: 1-11

3. Have you ever told the truth to someone and had them not believe you? How did it make you feel? Did it change your relationship?
4. How do you think the women coming back from the tomb felt when they weren't believed?

Believing and putting our confidence in each other is all part of relationship. And God strongly desires relationship with each one of us. In fact, He is such a God of relationship that when sin had separated us from Him in the past, God sent his only son Jesus to bridge the gap for us.

5. Writings were recorded many years before Jesus appeared of miracles that the Messiah would perform when he came. Read Psalm 146:8 and Isaiah 35:5-6. What was predicted that the Messiah would open? Who does He lift up? Where does He bring water?
6. God makes streams in the desert – an impossible place. God can make the impossible possible. What miracle do you need in your life? What stands in your way of believing? Do you think that you feel any different than the people who had been blind all of their life and had given up believing in a Savior who would hear THEM?
7. Scripture also talks about the eyes of our understanding being opened. How has Jesus coming into your life literally opened the “eyes” of your spiritual understanding? How do you view the world differently now than you did before you became a Christ follower?

In **Matthew 9**, we are told about two blind men who are stumbling after Jesus, following him through the streets of Capernaum, a town on the Sea of Galilee. As these men were blind, they had to rely on the testimonies of others who had literally just seen Jesus' miracles performed.

In order to comprehend the faith of these two blind men, let's understand what Jesus had just accomplished.

8. **Read Matthew 9:18-26.** What 2 miracles do these verses report? If Jesus had asked the question of "Do you believe that I can do this?" to both the father and to the woman with the bleeding disorder, what do you think would have been their answer? What made you answer the way you did? Why do you think that Jesus may have put the crowd outside before he laid hands on the girl and prayed for her?
9. Now **Read Matthew 9:27-31.** The two blind men were following Jesus, repeatedly crying out loud to him saying, "have mercy on us." At first, it seems like Jesus just ignores them. Have you ever cried out to Jesus over and over, feeling like you weren't being heard? How did this test your faith?
10. In the above verses, by what name did the two blind men call Jesus?

This title acknowledges him as the expected Christ, the Jewish Messiah. This title was their profession of belief in WHO Jesus was and, at the same time, their testimony of belief that he COULD heal them. Words are important. What we believe about who Jesus is and what he will do is important!

11. By what titles have you heard Jesus called? What significance do they have to you and your understanding of the power that he holds?
12. When Jesus touched the eyes of the two blind men, what did he say to them? Hebrews 11:1 says that "faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see" NLT. What is the difference in hope and the demonstration of faith? Do you believe that the size of your prayer requests reveals anything about the current strength of your faith?

## NEXT STEPS

What is something that you have been crying out to God for a while about? Are you willing to continue to have persistent faith and believe in WHO Jesus is and what He WILL do, even if it feels like nothing is changing in your situation? Stop focusing on what you can't change (the blind men couldn't see,) and start concentrating on what you can do (but they could yell, walk, and follow Jesus.)

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Day 1: Matthew 9:27-31

Day 2: Hebrews 11:1-40

Day 3: Ephesians 1:15-23

Day 4: Mark 11:22-24

Day 5: Romans 10:8-11

Day 6: Luke 4:14-21

Day 7: 1 John 5:13-15