

What Shall I Do?

Key Word: **Confidence**

Verse: Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. *Mark 9:8*

James had been learning to play golf since he was six. Now he was ten and his father had entered him into many competitions. Last week he'd won his first competition. James hadn't expected to do very well, but he'd felt very relaxed. He'd just gone out there and swung the club. He only won the competition by one stroke, but he won a big silver trophy and a new golf bag. It had been wonderful. Everyone had crowded around and made a great fuss over him. He had begun day-dreaming of his future as a professional golfer, and becoming even better than Tiger Woods.

That was last week. Now, everything had changed. He had started out the last competition full of confidence and enthusiasm. This was an easier competition. The age limit was eleven, so James was one of the oldest. He started the first tee with a little boy of eight. Embarrassingly, James had fluffed his first drive, sending it off the fairway into the deep rough. He dropped a shot, and then missed the putt so that he was two down by the end of the first hole. His young opponent couldn't hit the ball nearly as far as James, but was playing up the middle. Things went from bad to worse for James. He couldn't make the putts and his fairway shots were all over. He played so poorly that nobody wanted to talk to him after the game. He felt

like throwing his clubs into the nearest river.

He wanted to scream, "It's not fair!" But he had to be a good sport and pretend he didn't mind losing. He didn't go out on the golf course that week, and he didn't go to the practice range. He thought he probably would give up golf for good.

Then he saw a television interview with Tiger Woods, who had just won six major competitions in a row, something that had only been achieved once before. He suddenly heard what Tiger was saying: "At one time I lost and lost and lost, but when that happens, you just have to pick yourself up and start all over again. It's really hard, but I'm glad I lost in those early days. You have to go through the bad times if you really want to experience the good times. Anyone who goes on believing in their own God-given talent, will be a winner all the way. People who lose but still try, build the sort of character that's needed to become a winner." It seemed he was looking straight at James as he spoke. James jumped off the couch, grabbed his golf clubs, and set off for the practice range.

Questions

Why did James quit practicing?
Why did the disciples want to build houses on the mountain to stay in?

Gospel Grams

Today's Gospel Story
is from
Mark 9:2-9



- Picture Differences**
1. Grass
 2. Cloud
 3. Head Dress
 4. Mouth
 5. Beard
 6. Belt
 7. Staff
 8. Arm
 9. Sandals
 10. Dress

Hidden Message Puzzle
THIS IS MY SON, THE BELOVED;
LISTEN TO HIM!

- Word Scramble**
- RABBI
MOSES
CLOUD
VOICE
LISTEN
APPEARED
DAZZLING
MOUNTAIN
JESUS

Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words and write the correct spelling on the line.

- USSJE _____
- ANNUMIOT _____
- FGIUDEARTSNR _____
- LZGZADNI _____
- PRDEEAPA _____
- BARB _____
- SSEMO _____
- ULDOC _____
- EVICO _____
- TNELSI _____

Hidden Message Puzzle

Solve this puzzle to reveal a message from today's Gospel story. Using the key, write in all the letters in order that have "one's" for the first word, all the "two's" for the second word, and so on until you've solved the puzzle.

1 _ 1 _ 1 _ 1 _ 2 _ 2 _ 3 _ 3 _ 4 _ 4 _ 4 _
 5 _ 5 _ 5 _ 6 _ 6 _ 6 _ 6 _ 6 _ 6 _
 7 _ 7 _ 7 _ 7 _ 7 _ 7 _ 8 _ 8 _ 9 _ 9 _ 9 _

Key

T	S	B	T	I	T	E	H	L	H	L	I	M	S	H	I
1	4	6	8	2	5	6	1	7	9	6	7	3	7	5	1
O	O	S	E	I	V	T	N	E	S	E	O	D	Y	N	M
4	6	2	5	9	6	7	4	6	1	7	8	6	3	7	9

Picture Differences

In the Gospel story pictures below there are 10 differences. Circle each one as you find it.

