

FOUNDATIONS
FOR THE NEW YEAR
STUDY GUIDE

WELCOME & SHARING

Share any announcements...

- **New City Guys Breakfast & Bowling | Friday, February 17th 7a @ Madison Bowl**

Gentlemen...come dig on some delicious diner breakfast AND bowl a game before moving on with your day. RSVP on the City so we can tell them how many lanes we'll need.

- **Give & Take Free Sale | Saturday, April 1st 9-11a**

Please join us for a great opportunity to declutter and GIVE outgrown women and children's clothes, toys, shoes, accessories, etc. and bless others in the community. Please donate the above items in the weeks before the event outside of the broiler room (basement). *All* are invited to attend (invite friends, neighbors, coworkers) to the free sale, whether you have given or not, and TAKE what you need. Everything is FREE! Please see the City for opportunities to serve! [http://bit.ly/ 2kmwbsy](http://bit.ly/2kmwbsy)

- **Sandra McCracken Concert | 7p Friday, April 7th @ Madison Bowl**

We have the joy of hosting Sandra McCracken in concert at the New City Church building. For those interested, Sandra will be doing a discussion/Q&A re: worship, arts, culture, songwriting, etc. at 5p. Tickets for the concert are \$15 pre-sale, \$18 @ the door, \$30 for the Discussion/Q&A and concert. Spread the word and visit the City to learn more and for the link to purchase tickets: <http://bit.ly/2lunbCA>

- **New City Men's Retreat | April 21st & 22nd**

Men join us for our inaugural Men's Retreat @ Hannon's Camp America (yes it's really called Camp America). Check the website for details. You need to register online.

A Glimpse of Glory

Matthew 17.1-13

Opener Question: Have you ever been on a truly bad date? What was it like?

STUDY/DISCUSSION

In these first couple months of 2017, we'll be journeying through a series from Matthew 14-18. We'll study Jesus' teaching as he lays down some "first principles" for the disciples as they embark on a life of mission.

As you're making your own resolutions and dreaming your dreams for 2017, this series will help you get foundations in place which you can build on throughout the year.

Read: Matthew 17.1-13.

1. Quickly discuss what happens in this story - Ask who? what? when? where? why? how?

Don't spend a ton of time on this - just talk through the basic elements of the narrative with your group.

2. This is commonly called The Transfiguration, based on the term in verse 2. What does this passage teach us about Jesus?

Philippians 2:4-8 describes Jesus' normal state as one of veiled glory. He leaves the glory of heaven and walks among us. But here the disciples get a peak behind the curtain. The glory of God is revealed to them in Jesus. Most basically, this passage communicates in story form what Hebrews 1 says directly - Jesus is "the radiance of the glory of God, and the exact imprint of his nature" (Hebrews 1:3). You can read Peter's recollection of this event in 2 Peter 1.16-17.

3. What is the significance of Moses and Elijah's presence on the mountain?

Moses represents the Law and Elijah represents the Prophets, indicating that all that has preceded in God's Word and redemptive history leads to Christ. He is thus shown to be the apex of redemptive history and the fulfillment of God's promises of redemption. The Christ-centrality of all the Scripture is most evident visually in this text as the transcendent glory of the incarnate Word of God is confirmed by the witness of the most significant representatives of the inscripturated Word of God.

4. Verses 5-8 - Why are the disciples so frightened by this experience?

One commentator says the most significant thing in this story (when you consider the whole of Scripture) is that the disciples don't die. We are not able to bear the raw unmitigated presence of God (see Job 42.5-6, Isaiah 6.1-5, etc). And yet, the disciples don't die. The key to their survival is in verses 7-8. They don't die because Jesus is there. He is the way we can have access to God's glory.

5. One of the meanings of glory is “weight” or “importance.” If Jesus really is the glory cloud become human, then Jesus is not someone you negotiate with. That is, you can't say, “I want Jesus in my life in this area, but not in this other area.” What areas of your life are most difficult to surrender to Jesus? How can we encourage each other to give all of ourselves to him?
6. Verses 9-13 — As they are coming down the mountain, Jesus explains that the “Elijah to come” has already come - John the Baptist. He was killed, and soon Jesus will be killed. Dark times are coming to the disciples. How can a “glimpse of glory” sustain and energize us in dark and difficult times?

On Sunday Josh described The Transfiguration as “a look at the end of the story for people who are in the middle of the story.”

7. Our church tag line is “celebrating Christ, serving Cincinnati.” How are both ends of this vision caught up with the idea of the glory of God?
8. NEIGHBORING EXPERIMENT OF THE MONTH: Find a common interest with neighbors and get together for the live event (i.e. Oscars, Daytona 500, college basketball, etc.)

PRAYER

Take some time and pray together: You can pray as a large group, break into smaller groups, split up into men and women, etc. If you share prayer requests, post them to the City so that your group can continue to be praying for each other.