

LifeGroups

“Transfiguration”

Mark 9:2-13

Our church is studying the gospel of Mark each Sunday and discussing it through the week in Life Groups. The series is titled “The Cross-Shaped Life.” We believe discipleship takes place in and through community. Therefore we view small group Bible study as an essential means of spiritual growth. We hope you find these reflection questions helpful for recalling and applying what you hear from the pulpit each week. Time will not allow your group to work through all the questions in this guide. Select those that seem most relevant. Perhaps you can use the other questions in your own personal time with God.

This week's main point: *After explaining the cost of true discipleship to his men, Jesus takes three of them up a mountain where they witness one of the most amazing events recorded in the Bible. This event reinforces Jesus' claim to divinity and shows that he is indeed establishing a new covenant with the people of God. His disciples need to listen to him!*

Share

Can you remember a time when you were in an important situation and you said something really silly? Were you embarrassed?

Study

- 1. Read several times Mark 9:2-13.*
- 2. This event may be seen as a "new Mt. Sinai" moment. Read Exodus 24 and Exodus 34:29-35 and talk about the similarities you see between Jesus' transfiguration in Mark 9 and the Mt. Sinai event in Exodus.*
- 3. Why is it significant that Jesus spoke with Moses and Elijah on the mountain? What do Moses and Elijah represent? See Matthew 5:17.*
- 4. When Jesus says, "Elijah does come first," to whom is he referring (see Matthew 11:13-14)? How does he "restore all things" (see Malachi 4:5)?*
- 5. When Jesus mentions that "they did to him (John) whatever they pleased," what is he insinuating about how the Jewish leaders will treat him?*

See Jesus

1. *Read Daniel 7:9 and Revelation 1:14. Compare and contrast these verses with Jesus' transfiguration.*
2. *When Peter offers to build tents for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, what is he failing to recognize? What aspect of Jesus does the voice from heaven clarify?*
3. *Jesus is both fully God and fully man. Discuss the ways in which Jesus shows his divinity and his humanity in this passage.*
4. *Read Isaiah 53 and discuss the ways that you see Jesus fulfilling that prophecy in this week's passage.*

Send

1. *Part of living in Christian community is confessing sin to one another. Be open and honest with each other, and divide the group based on gender for this question. In what areas of your life are you currently refusing to "listen to Jesus"? Graciously speak the gospel to each other, applying it to these situations.*

2. *When speaking to your unbelieving friends and neighbors about Jesus, do they know you believe that Jesus is God and not just a prophet? Discuss how you speak to others about Jesus. Share ways you can speak of Jesus so people know he is divine.*

Supplicate

- ◆ *Pray for our middle school students and leaders. They are going to summer camp at Camp Kulaqua this week.*
- ◆ *Pray for the preparations being made for UPC's annual marriage retreat, coming up September 26-28. Pray for guest speakers Mike and Maria Francis, and for the planning team led by Keith and Rhonda Johnson. Pray for marriages to be strengthened as a result of this year's retreat.*
- ◆ *Pray for our church of the week: Faith Assembly*
- ◆ *Pray for our missionaries of the week: Devon Jankowski - Cru Missions*
- ◆ *Pray for our unreached people group of the week: Guiqiong of China*