

## **Small-Group Discussion Guide (11/9/2025)**

**Sermon recap:** On the mountain of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1–13), Jesus briefly unveils His true glory—His face shining like the sun, His clothes bright like light. Moses and Elijah appear, and the Father’s voice declares, “This is my beloved Son... listen to Him.” The glimpse is short, but it is real—and it is given to strengthen disciples to follow Jesus back down the mountain into the cross-shaped way He has already called them to walk (Matthew 16:24). Our King is both majestic and gentle: He stoops, touches terrified disciples, and says, “Rise, and have no fear.” God still gives foretastes of His glory (in Scripture, worship, reconciliation, providence, even suffering) to steady faith until the fullness comes.

**Main passage:** Matthew 17:1–13

**All passages used in the sermon:** Matthew 16:21; Matthew 16:24; Matthew 16:28; Matthew 17:1–13; 2 Corinthians 5:7; 2 Corinthians 4:6; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Exodus 13:21–22; Exodus 24:16; Exodus 33:18–23; Genesis 18:1–15; Genesis 28:10–17; Exodus 3:1–6; 1 Kings 18; 1 Kings 19:9–18; Daniel 3:24–27; Luke 2:9–14; Acts 7:55–56; Acts 9:3–6; Revelation 5:12–13; Hebrews 10:24–25; John 3:30; John 11:40; Matthew 11:28–30; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26; Ephesians 1:19–20; Philippians 3:10; Hebrews 12:2; 1 John 1:9. Ephesians 1:19–20; Philippians 3:10; Hebrews 12:2; 1 John 1:9

**Additional Scriptures:** 2 Peter 1:16–18; Hebrews 12:18–24; Revelation 1:12–18; Psalm 27:4; John 1:14–18.

### **Brief definitions:**

- *Transfiguration:* A moment when Jesus’ true divine glory was revealed to human eyes (Matthew 17:2).
- *Cruciform:* “Cross-shaped”—a life patterned after Jesus’ humble, self-giving love (Matthew 16:24).
- *Theophany:* A visible appearance of God to people (e.g., burning bush in Exodus 3).

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### **Discussion Questions:**

1. **Noticing the text:** What stood out to you from the mountain scene—Jesus’ shining face, Moses and Elijah, or the Father’s voice—and why? *Follow-up: What detail do you think Matthew most wants us to “see”?*
  2. **Glory and gentleness:** What does the passage reveal about God’s character—His majesty and His kindness (Matthew 17:5–7)? *Follow-up: Where have you recently experienced both God’s greatness and His nearness?*
  3. **Rise, and have no fear:** How could Jesus’ touch and words reshape our identity as disciples who are often afraid? *Follow-up: Name one fear that loses power when you picture Jesus placing a hand on your shoulder.*
  4. **Cross before crown:** Why does Jesus command silence “until the Son of Man is raised” (Matthew 17:9)? *Follow-up: How does “cross before crown” correct common expectations about following Jesus?*
  5. **Law & Prophets pointing to Christ:** Moses (Law) and Elijah (Prophets) stand with Jesus (Matthew 17:3). How does this moment help you read the whole Bible with Jesus at the center? *Follow-up: Share one Old Testament passage that has become clearer in light of Christ.*
  6. **Glimpses that sustain faith:** Where have you received a small but real “glimpse” of God’s glory—through Scripture, worship, reconciliation, creation, providence, or even suffering? *Follow-up: How did that glimpse help you walk faithfully afterward?*
  7. **Down the mountain:** What is one specific, obedient step you sense Jesus calling you to take this week (truth-telling, reconciling, serving, giving, sharing Christ)? *Follow-up: What support or prayer do you need from the group to do it?*
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## **Small-Group Discussion Guide (11/9/2025)**

### **Prayer (guided closing prompt)**

“Father, thank You for revealing the glory of Jesus. Help us to listen to Your Son. Give us fresh glimpses of Your presence this week. When fear rises, speak over us: ‘Rise, and have no fear.’ Strengthen us to take up our cross in love, by the Spirit’s power. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

**Weekly Practice - After Six Days, We Climb:** Before next Sunday, take one unhurried 15-minute window to *behold*: read Matthew 17:14-20 slowly, pray it back to God, and write one sentence beginning, “This shows me Jesus is...”. Then arrive ten minutes early on Sunday to participate—sing, listen, and come to the Table with expectancy.