

Talk About It

Small Group Discussion Guide

God Encounters

The Transfiguration

July 13-17, 2023

Start Talking

Share about a time you rallied for a special cause and what brought you to that place.

Main Idea

The Bible is full of stories of people encountering God in various ways. These encounters often transformed people's lives and set them on a new path. In our Summer Series, God Encounters, we explore some of these encounters and learn what they can teach us about our spiritual journeys. This week, Pastor Ken shared the disciples' experience of witnessing Christ's transfiguration, which is in three of the Bible's four gospels. However, their purpose was not to remain on the mountaintop indefinitely; instead, they descended and embraced their mission in daily life. Likewise, today we are called to do the same—to live out our purpose and mission.

Personalize It

1. Read 1 Peter 1:14-16. Pastor Ken reminded us that God's presence makes things Holy and demands a response. Holy is being set apart for a purpose, consecrated. People, places, and objects can become holy because of God's holiness. How do we become holy (remember, God does not tell us we must be perfect)? What is an appropriate response to God's holiness?
2. Read Matthew 17:5-15. What an incredible encounter the disciples witnessed. What would your response have been? Jesus told them not to share what they witnessed until later, what would you have done in the in-between?
3. Opportunities present themselves when we are spiritually in tune with God, spending time with Him, and cultivating opportunities. How can you be faithful in the opportunities that you are given?

Let's Do It! Commit to a step and live it out this week!

1. Pastor Ken shared that the holy encounter on the mountain fueled and encouraged the disciples' earthly work and calling. What do you need to do this week to be fueled in your earthly work and calling?

2. We are on a mission, just like Christ was when He went to the cross. What can you do this week to increase your God encounters so that you can be on a mission for Christ?
3. Have you considered what Pastor Ken asked at the end of the teaching? Let's answer one of those questions: "Is it time to get off the mountain (called self) and start ministering and leading another person?"

Let's Pray

Jesus, thank You for the example of the disciples and how they encountered Jesus and then lived on mission. May we seek You daily to serve and love others and be more on mission for You. God, help us seize the opportunities that are presented to us and that we cultivate. We give ourselves to You this week, hoping to become holy people on mission for you. Amen.

Key Scriptures

Luke 9:22–23 (NLT)

"The Son of Man must suffer many terrible things," he said. "He will be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He will be killed, but on the third day he will be raised from the dead." Then he said to the crowd, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross daily, and follow me.

Matthew 17:5–15 (NLT)

But even as he spoke, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy. Listen to him." The disciples were terrified and fell face down on the ground. Then Jesus came over and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." And when they looked up, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus. As they went back down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Don't tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead." Then his disciples asked him, "Why do the teachers of religious law insist that Elijah must return before the Messiah comes?" Jesus replied, "Elijah is indeed coming first to get everything ready. But I tell you, Elijah has already come, but he wasn't recognized, and they chose to abuse him. And in the same way they will also make the Son of Man suffer." Then the disciples realized he was talking about John the Baptist. At the foot of the mountain, a large crowd was waiting for them. A man came and knelt before Jesus and said, "Lord, have mercy on my son. He has seizures and suffers terribly. He often falls into the fire or into the water.

1 Peter 1:14–16 (NLT)

So you must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy."