

# Life Changing Community Group Discussion Questions

week of 2/15/26

## Summary

This sermon used the transfiguration of Jesus as an illustration about the importance of place in our spirituality. Pastor Mark explained that mountains were sacred places where people went to meet, speak to, and hear from God. While affirming that God is present everywhere, Pastor Mark explained that Scripture also shows He makes His presence known in particular places, and that place therefore matters in our spiritual lives. He challenged the congregation to recognize their church sanctuary as a holy place - their 'mountain' - and invited them to participate in continuous prayer during Lent, with 20-minute prayer slots from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

## Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we gather together as Your people, eager to learn from Your Word and grow in our relationship with You. Just as You spoke to the disciples on the mountain of transfiguration, we ask that You would speak to us today. Open our hearts and minds to receive what You want to teach us through this time together. Help us to be attentive listeners, ready to hear Your voice and respond in obedience. May Your Spirit guide our discussion and draw us closer to You and to one another. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

## Ice Breaker

What's your favorite place to go when you need some quiet time to think or reflect? It could be indoors or outdoors, at home or somewhere else entirely.

## Key Verses

Matthew 17:1-9

Luke 9:28-36

Exodus 24:12-18

Matthew 5:1-2

Exodus 19:3-6

## Questions

1. Pastor Mark mentioned that 'place matters' for our spiritual lives. How has a particular place been significant in your spiritual journey?
2. How does understanding that Jesus went to specific places to pray challenge or encourage your own prayer life?
3. What do you think the disciples learned from witnessing Jesus' transfiguration? How might this experience have prepared them for what was to come?
4. The sermon suggested that we can sometimes think 'I can pray anywhere' means 'I don't pray anywhere in particular.' Have you experienced this in your own life? How can we be more intentional about prayer?
5. How does the concept of sacred or holy places fit with your understanding of God being everywhere? Can both be true?
6. What role do you think community plays in our individual prayer lives, based on Pastor Mark's emphasis on praying 'with the church' even when alone?

7. Pastor Mark called the church sanctuary 'our mountain.' What makes a place sacred or holy in your opinion? How can we cultivate a sense of reverence in our worship spaces?

## **Life Application**

This week, identify a specific place where you can regularly meet with God in prayer - whether it's a corner of your home, your church, or somewhere outdoors. Commit to spending at least 10-15 minutes in prayer there each day, asking God to meet you in that place. Pay attention to how having a designated prayer space affects your prayer life and your sense of God's presence.

## **Key Takeaways**

- Jesus intentionally went to specific places to pray, showing us that place can matter in our spiritual lives.
- While God is everywhere, He can also be more present in particular places and we should seek those places.
- Mountains in biblical times were considered sacred places where people went to meet, speak to, and hear from God.
- Prayer is meant to be communal even when we pray alone - we are always praying with the church.
- Having a designated place for prayer can help us become more faithful and intentional in our prayer lives.

## **Ending Prayer**

Lord Jesus, thank You for showing us through Your example that place matters in our relationship with You. Thank You for going to the mountain to pray and for being transfigured before Your disciples, revealing Your glory and divinity. Help us to be more intentional about creating sacred spaces in our lives where we can meet with You regularly. Give us the discipline to seek You in prayer, and help us to listen for Your voice as the Father commanded the disciples to listen to You. May we find our own 'mountains' - places where we can encounter You in deeper ways.