

Small Group Guide: The Transfiguration - Matthew 17

Opening Prayer

Begin your group time by asking God to open your hearts and minds to understand the significance of Christ's glory and what it means for your daily walk with Him.

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you witnessed something so amazing or unexpected that it left you speechless or changed your perspective.

Key Scripture

Matthew 17:1-9 - The Transfiguration

Summary of Main Points

1. **Jesus is the Greater Moses** - The transfiguration reveals Jesus as the fulfillment of Deuteronomy 18, the prophet greater than Moses who would come to deliver God's people.
2. **The Glory of God Revealed** - Unlike Moses who reflected God's glory, Jesus radiates glory from within because He is one with the Father.
3. **The Cost of Discipleship** - Following Christ requires denying self, taking up your cross, and following Him (Matthew 16).
4. **The Promise of Glorification** - Believers will one day share in Christ's glory through resurrection and transformation.
5. **The Return of Christ** - The transfiguration gives us a preview of the glorified Christ who will return to judge and reign.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **What significance does the presence of Moses and Elijah have in this scene?** How do they represent the Law and the Prophets, pointing to Christ?
2. **Why were the disciples terrified when they heard the Father's voice?** What does this teach us about the holiness of God?
3. **The sermon emphasized that Jesus' glory came from within, not as a reflection like Moses. Why is this distinction important?**

Application and Living It Out

4. **The sermon emphasized starting with what the Bible says about God rather than starting with our felt needs. How can we reorient our approach to Scripture and church to reflect this priority?**
5. **The pastor said, "I don't even know what I need. I think I know." How does this humble recognition change the way we pray and approach God?**
6. **We will one day be "transfigured" and share in Christ's glory (1 Corinthians 15). How should this future hope shape your present choices and priorities?**

Key Takeaways

- Jesus is the **Greater Moses** who can not only deliver us from bondage but atone for our sins
- The transfiguration reveals Jesus' true nature as the **God-man**, fully divine and fully human
- God the Father authenticated Jesus as His beloved Son, commanding us to **"listen to Him"**
- Following Christ requires **conviction leading to commitment**, not just curiosity
- We will one day **share in Christ's glory** through resurrection
- The glorified Christ is **returning** and will hold everyone accountable

Prayer Focus

Pray for one another in these areas:

- For deeper understanding of who Christ truly is beyond our limited perceptions
- For courage to deny self and take up our cross daily
- For the church to prioritize knowing God through His Word
- For hope and endurance in suffering, knowing our future glorification
- For readiness for Christ's return and accountability before Him
- For hearts that truly listen to and obey Jesus

Closing Reflection

"When Christ who is our life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory." - Colossians 3:4

We serve a glorified Savior who is returning, and one day we will share in that glory. Until then, we live as those who know the truth: Jesus is the Greater Moses, the beloved Son of God, and the only hope for salvation and transformation.