



Small Group Study Guide for February 14, 2021

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: This weekend the Church around the world gathers around Word and Sacrament joyfully celebrating the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. Peter, James, and John saw Jesus shine on the mountain not for His own sake, but for theirs and yours. Grasp this and you will love Jesus forever for what He did on the Mount of Transfiguration. The glory that lit up the sky that night is the glory that He came to give to us. The glory that shone from His body is the glory He will give to you, to *your* body, at the Resurrection! The glory of His body will that day be *your own* when He raises you from death.

Getting Started:

1. The word 'glory' is used a lot when we talk about the Transfiguration of our Lord, what does the word mean, and what comes to mind when you think of that word?
2. The penitential season of Lent will be arriving soon! Will you be giving up something? Perhaps adding something? Will you join in the tradition fasting of Lent? (Many people confuse fasting and abstinence. To fast is to be hungry; to abstain is forego certain kinds of food. The traditional fast of the Western Church was 1/4 meal for breakfast and lunch, with a simple dinner. In other words, for breakfast maybe half a slice of toast, for lunch an orange. Then a regular dinner - but nothing fancy.)

In the Word: Mark 9:2-9. Please read through this section of the text.

3. The text for the Transfiguration of our Lord begins with the first time-marker in Mark's Gospel account, "and after six days." Well, six days after what? Look back at what Jesus has just announced in Mark 8:31-38. Also, note the important statement in Mark 9:1 . . . could that be a reference to what occurs at the Transfiguration?
4. The Transfiguration of our Lord, is one of three instances where God the Father speaks audibly. Do you recall the other two occasions (if you're stumped check out Matthew 3:17 and John 12:28)?
5. Mark 9:9 closes our reading for the Transfiguration. There, Jesus commands his disciples to tell no one what they had seen, *until* the Son of Man had risen from the dead in His Resurrection. The Messianic secret (Jesus telling His disciples to be quiet about His miracles until after the Resurrection) is a major emphasis in Mark's Gospel account. Why do you think Jesus keeps commanding them to silence?

Putting it Together

6. The Transfiguration of our Lord is one of the major Feast Days of the Church Year. The sermon described the Transfiguration as a feast for both the eyes and the ears. What do the eyes see and the ears hear at the Transfiguration? Why would we rejoice in them and describe them as a feast?
7. Have one person each look up these passages from Scripture that are intimately connected to the Transfiguration: Daniel 12:2-3; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:3-4; and 1 John 3:2. What is God declaring through all of these writings?
8. The sermon emphasized the importance of making this point clear: during the Transfiguration, Jesus did not receive a new body while He was there on the mountain; it was His same body, the very flesh and blood that He has received as His own from Blessed Mary's womb. Why do you think that is an important thing to be clear on if we are to unlock the full joy of this feast?
9. In the sermon the point was made that Baptism is our own Transfiguration. On the day of your baptism you were clothed with Christ. Your baptism was that moment when Jesus reached out, grabbed a hold of you and marked you as a co-heir with Him of His glory! But the glory that Baptism promises us is a glory that we will not have as our own in this world, in this life. We still stare the last enemy, death, in the face. The sermon noted that we grow old, our bodies begin to wear out. What are some ways you have seen this happening in the world? And what comfort is given to you knowing that Christ will raise your body and glorify it like His when He comes again?
10. At the Transfiguration, Jesus reveals a glimpse of what His finished work in us will look like. He reveals a glimpse of His sure victory and certain triumph. How does the Transfiguration and all that is included in it, impact how we deal with death as it approaches (especially keep in mind that vision of Jesus, shining on the mountain and revealing a glory that will be yours!)?

Prayer: O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son, You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshadowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us coheirs with our King in His glory and bring us to the fulness of our inheritance in heaven and the new creation; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.