



Small Group Study Guide for February 19, 2023

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School

Theme: The Transfiguration of Jesus was a remarkable event that gave His disciples a glimpse of His heavenly glory. The focus for worship will be on Matthew 17:5, "He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

Getting Started: (sharing with each other)

1. What is a hidden talent that you have that most people don't know about?
2. When was the last time you were able to use that hidden talent, or when someone realized that you could do this?

In the Word: Read Matthew 17:1-9

3. Peter, James, and John were especially close to Jesus, and the leaders of His disciples. He was able to show them a remarkable insight into Jesus' identity and purpose. A mountain top is often a place of God's revelation. Can you think of other 'mountain top experiences' from the Old or New Testaments that took place on a mountain? See how many you can come up with. (hint, think Moses and Elijah)
4. Moses and Elijah were the two great prophets of the Old Testament. In a way, they symbolize the Old Testament writings – the Torah (first five books written by Moses) and the Prophets (written by many prophets, although Elijah didn't write anything that we know of. He represents all the prophets in Israel's history). Jesus often spoke of "Moses and the Prophets" when speaking of the Old Testament. Obviously it wasn't 'old' at that point! What do you think Moses, Elijah, and Jesus were talking about? (It's pure speculation, but maybe consider some of the Old Testament prophecies of Jesus and what Moses and Elijah were looking forward to.)
5. Peter is often the first to speak without really thinking it all through. He sort of blurts out his comments about a shelter for Jesus and the two special visitors. Does anyone respond to Peter or comment on his idea?

6. Look carefully at the voice from the cloud. Who is speaking (and how do you know)? What does it say about Jesus and why is it important?

7. Verse 8 is a remarkable conclusion to the Transfiguration vision. All they saw was Jesus. Why is that such an important point to end the mountaintop experience on?

8. Read **1 Peter 1:16-21**. What does this verse say about the Transfiguration and its impact on our view of the Old Testament scriptures? (make a note in your Bible if you don't have one already that this refers to the Transfiguration)

Putting it all Together (what do we believe or do as disciples?)

9. Jesus' full divine glory was hidden and concealed as He lived with His disciples on earth. How is God's full glory and divine power often hidden and concealed in our day?

10. Think of a moment when God became very real to you, or very evident to you. Is there a time when you saw God's glory on display in some way?

11. When the startling (and probably shocking) event was over, all the disciples saw was Jesus. Read **Hebrews 12:1-3**. How does this passage and the Transfiguration encourage us as we go through our lives, especially in this present time?

Prayer: Ask God to help us keep our eyes on Jesus, and to bring Jesus into our community and homes. Pray for all those affected by the events at MSU, and to bring comfort, help, and healing, and that Christians would be salt and light – bringing Jesus into our hurting community.

Note: The Red Letter Challenge begins on Tuesday before **Ash Wednesday**. Ash Wednesday worship is at 7 p.m. and a Fish Fry dinner starts at 5:30. We hope to see you there!

Next Week: Sunday begins our Red Letter Challenge series, focusing in on the words of Jesus and how He describes life in His Kingdom. The Small Group Study Guide will be printed and distributed as usual. The Teaching Videos for the Small Groups are on our website under "Faith Resources."