

Teen Devotion

Year B – Transfiguration Sunday From the River to the Mountain



One truth shared: On the mountain, a transfigured Jesus assures us of who he is shortly before suffering a horrific death for our sins.

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Mark 9:2-9

A Glimpse of His True Glory

The series of this Epiphany set of *Transformed* devotions has been “From the River to the Mountain.” We saw Jesus officially kick off his public ministry at the Jordan River. Today we watch him reveal even more about his glory on the mountain as he is transfigured (changed in appearance) before his disciples, giving them a glimpse of his divinity.

I’m guessing this is a day the disciples would never forget—Jesus in all his glory; Elijah and Moses making guest star appearances; the Father proudly testifying, “Yep, that’s my Son, and I’m so proud of how he is carrying out his work!” The disciples were overwhelmed. They were amazed.

And then we read, “As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.” Our Epiphany King—Jesus Christ, Lord of all—gave a quick glimpse as to who he never stopped being... the almighty Lord of all.

As they descended the mountain, though, Christ’s suffering was near. The Father who attested to his Son’s perfect work would soon turn his back on him in order to pay for our sin. The almighty Son of God would be crucified as the worst of sinners—the shedding of his blood being the price paid to assure us a place in heaven.

What a glimpse of Christ’s true glory we receive on this transfiguration mountain, dear friends. That is what causes us to marvel at the depth of his love for us. It’s a love which left the comforts of heaven and came to earth as the sacrifice for our sins. Today and always, we praise him for his love. Today and always, we look to him in all things, knowing that he loves us and calls us his own.

Prayer: I praise you, Lord God, for sending your Son to this earth for me. He alone is my Savior, my Lord, and my friend. Amen.

Foundation Teen Facilitators Guide

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Starting the Discussion: *This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

Let's discuss for a moment some of the most amazing things you have seen in your short life.

Connecting: *This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they've looked at it.*

Peter, James, and John were in for a treat when they traveled up with Jesus to the mountain. Put yourself in their sandals for a moment, what sort of things are running through your head at the things you are seeing and hearing?

Digging In: *Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

- Let's reread verses 2-4. Why do you think Jesus brought his disciples with him on the mountain?
- How do the disciples show that they didn't really understand everything that was going on? Let's discuss whether or not we blame them for this misunderstanding.
- Verse 7 sounds a lot like what other time that the Father spoke during Jesus' ministry on earth? Let's put into our own words what he is saying here.
- As quickly as Elijah and Moses appeared with the transfigured Jesus, they were gone, Jesus was returned to his "normal self," and he commanded the disciples not to tell anyone about what had happened. What are some reasons for Jesus' command at this time and place?

Conclusion: *Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the "connecting question" above.*

What are some other times where we see Jesus reveal his true divinity during his ministry on earth? How do we see him reveal his power, mercy, and goodness today in our lives?