

Transfiguration Sunday
For Groups Meeting from February 7 through February 13

OUR MISSION: As a missional congregation we *celebrate* Christ's presence, *invite* people into a growing relationship with Jesus, and *equip* them to *serve* in a broken world.

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING TOGETHER

Share: How did last week's scripture (Mark 1:29-39) work in your life this week?

Mission:

- What was most satisfying about your ministry last week?
- Where do you see God at work?
- How did you participate in God's missional activity?
- How did inviting go last Saturday and Sunday? – How has 'inviting' changed in this time of social distancing? Do you know how to forward the YouTube worship video to share with others?

Hear: Mark 9:2-9

Explore Questions: (Use these or develop your own.)

1. The Transfiguration serves as a pivot in Mark's gospel. We are connected to an event that already happened (baptism) and there is a foreshadowing to an event to come (resurrection). The Old Testament heroes, tents (like the Israelites in the wilderness) and a cloud (Exodus 13:21-22) also serve as connections to the past. What do these connections say about Jesus and his ministry?
2. The gospel of Mark often portrays the disciples as bumbling idiots. For example, the next time these three disciples are together is in the Garden at Gethsemane where they are told to stay awake and instead they fall asleep three times. In what ways do they fall short in the Transfiguration story? Why do you think Mark's gospel portrays them in this way?
3. This gospel reading ends with Jesus telling the disciples not to tell anyone what they had seen and witnessed until after the Son of Man dies. They must have wanted to go down the mountain and tell everyone what they had just experienced, so why do you think Jesus told them they couldn't tell anyone yet?

Connect Questions: (Use these or develop your own.)

1. Transfiguration literally means to change figure or form. Have you had an experience where you were transformed or completely changed? Was it something that happened quickly like Jesus' physical transformation or something that happened over a longer period of time?
2. The sights and sounds of the Transfiguration suggest that Peter, James and John find themselves on holy ground. After all, Jesus appears alongside Moses and Elijah, the two greatest prophets in Jewish memory. Where or what is your holy place?
3. The voice from the cloud says, "This is my son, the beloved, listen to him!" What does it mean to listen to Jesus? How do we listen? Who or what helps you listen?

Prepare: Memorize this verse: *"Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!'"* (Mark 9:7) How do you listen to God?

BIBLICAL EQUIPPING APART:

Obey: During this week follow through on your intentions.

Meditate: Meditate on Psalm 50:1-6. How does this speak into your life?

Reflect: What have I learned in my week of living with this text? What can I share with my group when we next meet?

Notes for ChristCare leaders:

Peter, James and John got a preview on that mountaintop of the resurrected Jesus. Jesus glowed with the full power of God. For Peter, James and John it was a stop along their way in a life of faith. Not their last stop, but one of many full of highs and lows, ups and downs, successes and disappointments. It was an awesome thing to witness, to be sure, but even the greatest mountaintop experience of God's presence doesn't transform us. Only death and resurrection truly change us. Like Peter, James and John, we all have moments of light and fullness, followed inexplicably the next day with moments of dark and emptiness. The thing we celebrated the one day only looks like a lot of work to be put back in the box the next day. Mountaintop moments might bring us closer to God, but this world is tough and that awed feeling can leave us quickly. The good news is that to be truly transformed, we don't have to climb any mountain. The story of Jesus is about God coming to us, broken as we are, down here, not the other way around. God is present just as much on the mountaintop successes as God is in our valleys of disappointments. Since death is at the heart of our transformation, maybe failing can lead us to God as much as succeeding can.

Thanks be to God,

Pastor Thadd
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Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those
Who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours,
Now and forever. Amen

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified died and was buried;
He descended to the dead,
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come to judge the living and the
dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.