



There are many questions this week in an attempt to get participants to think and express at possibly a deeper level.

Ask, What is the most remarkable thing that you have experienced personally? We all have seen things that have happened to others via television and social media, but what about your life personally? What would it be?

What makes it so remarkable? Remember that what is remarkable to you may not be that remarkable to someone else.

Read the account of Jesus, Peter, James and John (along with Moses and Elijah) found in Luke 9:28-36. *"Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were talking with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. Now Peter and those who were with him were heavy with sleep, but when they became fully awake they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah"—not knowing what he said. As he was saying these things, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!" And when the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and told no one in those days anything of what they had seen."*

Luke 9:28-36 ESV

Jesus takes Peter, James and John to the mountain top and prayed. (Notice that Jesus removed Himself from the crowd for this particular prayer time. He did invite Peter, James and John to go along though.

(Here are some different kind of questions that might get a little personal. Use at your discretion.)

Where do you find yourself praying most of the time? Do you ever invite others into a prayer time with you? Have you ever thought about doing that before? What might be the benefit of praying with others?

A little background here - The disciples are snoozing and then wake up to see His glory and Moses and Elijah. As Moses and Elijah are about to leave, Peter speaks up. Instead of watching and observing and soaking it in, he wants to do something. Peter says build some dwelling places for these holy figures. He misses that the Son of God is with them.

Why is that we want to do something many times rather than just see God in His glory?

Jesus tries to help the disciples see that they do not need a tent for the presence of God because He will make His dwelling within us. This is a pretty important truth. Jesus is trying to illuminate the disciples of who He really is. They still had not seen Him as the Son of God in His glory.

What does it mean that God now makes His dwelling place in His people?

We fail to see the glory of God many times. We actually have to be intentional to recognize it most times.

When do you normally only recognize Jesus as a good teacher?

How do you begin to see Him in His glory? Sometimes we see it in creation; in relationships being restored; in times when we feel like we just can't go on and He provides us strength and comfort; in our children; in our circumstances at work and play. The key is to recognize God and not just His goodness in the circumstances.

God so loves us . . .

- He gives us His Son to follow

- He lets us peek into our future - we see a glimpse of the eternal (the real us)

- God allows them to see two heroes of the faith - Moses and Elijah
- God comes as a cloud and a voice

- He wows us with a taste of His glory

Also found in 2nd Peter 1 - a recording of the eyewitness account

"For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain."

2 Peter 1:16-18 ESV

The Holy Spirit reveals it as truth in your heart. This is what leads to transformation in our lives. We do not transform through our efforts or our natural inclinations or work. Transformation only comes through our surrender in allowing the Holy Spirit to work and transform our lives.

The challenge comes in allowing us to be transfigured/transformed. We would rather try to change everything/everyone else around us. Last week we were reminded of the truth that the way of a disciple is to deny self, take up your cross daily and follow Him. There is no transformation with us denying ourselves.

Hope in the Transfiguration

- Remember God has a plan – This plan is for His glory and He invites us into His plan.
- Remember that God is changing you - fruit of the Spirit comes only through the Spirit - these are not natural abilities Galatians 5:22-23. (You might want to take the time to read these verses and be reminded of the fruit of the Spirit.)
- Remember glimpses of His glory. Where have you seen God? How do you remember? Record and journal. Where and when have you seen glimpses of His glory?
- Remember Jesus is your Savior. He is, (not yourself, not your job, your kids, your hobbies, your spouse, your significant other, not a substance, etc.) but the Son of God alone is Savior. Anything other than Christ being your Savior is an idol in your life.

Listen to Him

How are you listening to Him? How will you know when it is Him speaking?

What distracts you from listening?

What is it like when you do listen to Him? Sometimes it is hard to listen and obey because our pride is quick to get back in the way.

Encourage your group to pray for one another this week.