

## Encounter Jesus: The Transfiguration

**Read: Luke 9:28-36**

### **Summary:**

#### *Setting the scene*

Luke 9 has been dealing with two interwoven themes: the people of God and who is Jesus? This section is God's clear answer. We know that Peter, James and John are the 'inner three' of Jesus' disciples and get to witness the best bits. We believe they were taken to the top of Mount Hermon and this whole situation started with prayer – as transformation does!

#### *Moses & Elijah*

I believe there is much significance in the two people Jesus speaks with: Moses was the 'deliverer' of the Old Testament. He was the great covenant mediator who himself had a great mountain top experience with God and was involved in 'forming the people of God'. Elijah was the great prophet who 'restored God's people'. However both of them came not to chat about the past but to look forward to the cross and all that Jesus would accomplish there.

#### *Peter*

He almost missed seeing this event due to want a kip! It is so easy for all of us to get caught up in the temporary and miss the eternal. Peter blurts out about tents: possibly with reference to tabernacles, but more likely just because he wanted to preserve the moment. It is easy for us to just want 'mountain top' experiences with God rather than get back into the battle.

#### *God invades*

We know throughout scripture that's clouds often signify the presence of God! On this occasion it is the second only time that God speaks publicly (the other being Jesus' baptism) and the message is the same... My Son, My chosen One... yet one thing is added – listen to HIM!

The whole story ends by Jesus being 'found alone'. The danger is that our pluralistic society would put him in a booth next to other 'religious fellows' but this should not be done – Jesus is unique!

### **Application:**

Please select from the following questions and do not attempt them all. Encourage all to take part and to be honest. Allow time to pray for one another.

1. What did God say to you on Sunday and what are you going to do as a result?
2. In what ways do you live 'for' God rather than 'with' God?
3. Share about your prayer life over the past week and say if you want to do things differently next week.
4. For Peter it was sleep, what is the thing that is most likely to make you 'miss seeing Jesus'?
5. List what you believe that Jesus accomplished when He died on the cross and rose again.
6. In what ways do you enjoy time with Jesus 'up the mountain'?
7. What hinders you from doing what Jesus tells you? How do you overcome this?