

Small Group Discussion Guide

Mark 9:1-13

“Listen to the Light”

Based on Sunday's
Sermon 7/19/26

Background

“In promising a preview glimpse of the kingdom (the Greek word can be translated as “royal splendor”), Jesus was speaking of His transfiguration (cf. Matt. 16:28–17:8; Luke 9:27–36), which would be witnessed by Peter, James, and John, and would move their faith to sight. The Lord’s visible manifestation of His divine glory in the transfiguration was the most transcendent miracle recorded in the New Testament prior to the Lord’s resurrection. It bolstered the apostles’ confidence in His coming revelation of glory.”¹

“Transfigured translates a form of the verb *metamorphoō*, from which the English word “metamorphosis” derives. It appears four times in the New Testament, always in reference to a radical transformation. Here and in Matthew 17:2 it describes the transfiguration, while in Romans 12:2 and 2 Corinthians 3:18, it refers to the transformation in the lives of believers brought about by salvation. Christ’s nature, of course, could not change; only His appearance. The brilliant glory of His divine nature blazed forth through the veil of His humanity, and His face “became different” (Luke 9:29) and “shone like the sun” (Matt. 17:2; cf. Rev. 1:16). In addition to Jesus’ face, His garments became radiant and exceedingly white, as no launderer on earth can whiten them. Matthew notes that “His garments became as white as light” (17:2), while Luke says that they “became white and gleaming [lit. ‘to flash or gleam like lightning’]” (9:29). It was that blazing glory that Peter, James, and John saw when they awakened (Luke 9:32).”²

Discussion Questions

Getting Started

1. “Think of a time you had a ‘mountaintop moment’—a moment that felt bigger, brighter, or more real than everyday life. It could be spiritual, hilarious, or just unforgettable. What happened?”

Observation

2. What promise does Jesus make in 9:1, and who is He speaking to?

¹ John MacArthur, *Mark 9–16*, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2015), 3.

² Ibid, 5.

3. Who goes up the mountain with Jesus, and what details stand out about scene?
4. Describe Peter's actions and the voice that addresses him.

Interpretation

5. What does Jesus mean in Mark 9:1 about the kingdom of God?
6. What is the significance of Moses and Elijah appearing with Jesus?
7. Why does Peter desire to build shelters?
8. Read Exodus 24:12-18. How does this passage point to Christ and the transfiguration?

Application

9. How does the Father's command – "Listen to Him" – challenge your current patterns of obedience?
10. How can we hear the voice of God today?

Prayer List: