

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

"THE MOUNTAIN" MARCH 05 & 06

SERIES OVERVIEW:

More than any other historical figure Jesus has been studied and written about and yet so many still wonder, who is Jesus, really? Cutting through the noise is the fast paced action packed Gospel of Mark. Mark presents the life of Jesus in two symmetrical acts: His IDENTITY as the King over all things and His PURPOSE in dying on the cross. As we explore the life of Jesus we will find Him to be unpredictable but reliable, meek but powerful, authoritative but humble, human but divine. As we encounter Jesus we must all consider the significance of the life of Jesus the King in our own lives.

*Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc.
Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.*

1

OPENING PRAYER AND SCRIPTURE:

About 3 minutes

Ask a volunteer to open in prayer.

2

BIG IDEA:

About 1 minute to read

The turn toward the cross has begun as Jesus starts to clearly show His purpose for coming to earth and takes Peter, James, and John up the mountain. It is at the mountain where we are invited to bring our doubts and pride and believe out of our helplessness. From that place we will experience worship that will empower us to face all the suffering that will come our way.

3

INTRO QUESTION:

About 10 minutes

Think of a mountaintop experience where you were in awe, reverence, and worship of the LORD. Also consider a "valley" experience where trusting God in all things was difficult. What did you learn about yourself and God in these experiences? Did you learn different things in each or the same? Explain.



March 5 & 6, 2022

Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed, and his clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them. - Mark 9:2-3 NLT

Reflect

Read the full passage in your Bible - Mark 9:2-29.

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit highlighting from the scripture reading?

What might be God's invitation to you in this?

What might be God's challenge to you in this?

How might God be calling you to respond?
Be curious...and then do it.

4

SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION

About 40-45 minutes

Read Mark 9:2-8. Here Jesus displays God's glory as the fulfillment of the Law (Moses) and the prophets (Elijah). See also Hebrews 1:1-3. What do you think Jesus talked about with Moses and Elijah? Why do you think the disciples were afraid? What is attractive to you about God's glory? What can be scary about it?

Read Mark 9:9-13 The disciples have a Q&A session here with Jesus. What questions about His authority as the Son of God, His purpose for the cross, and the resurrection would you want to ask Him?

Read Mark 9:14-29 The disciples are unable to drive out the evil spirit and their lack of faith in this situation is exposed. The father of the little boy says to Jesus, "Help us, if you can...I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief." In what specific ways this week are you trusting Jesus, and yet asking Him to help you in your unbelief?



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?

Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?

What might God be inviting you to do?

5 LIVE IT OUT:

About 3 minutes

Read this section aloud. Invite the group to take the steps suggested. If time permits, discuss the question as a group and allow for additional answers for how to pursue God in "repentant helplessness" allowing Him to shape our identity as a child of God.

TAKE IT DEEPER



Live It Out

What are some ways that you can pursue God in repentant helplessness this week? Try this simple prayer everyday, **"Lord, I believe, help my unbelief."** Invite him to shape your identity as his child.

Pray

Talk to God about your pride and also about your weakness. Repent of your pride and lay your weakness before him.

Take a few minutes to be still and listen for his gentle, compassionate response.

Thank God for the ongoing work of the Spirit in your life...renewing and transforming you.

6

CLOSING GROUP PRAYER:

About 10 minutes

Read the prayer section on the card aloud, and take a few moments of silence for each person to reflect on the prayer prompt personally.

Close in a time of popcorn prayer with the leader opening the time with the following prayer:

"Lord, we come before you with all glory, honor and praise. We humble ourselves knowing you are all-powerful and yet often we don't understand Your purposes and plans. Thank You for loving us and help us to trust You as the way, the truth, and the life. Lord, we believe, but help us in our unbelief. We offer these specific prayers to You now..."

[leave a time for popcorn prayer]

Amen."