

Transfiguration | Luke 9 Sermon Discussion Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To get a glimpse of the glory and splendor in the kingdom of God and how we're prone to stray from it.

Icebreaker: Where have you gotten glimpses of glory? Dave shared his awe-inspired reaction to the Andromeda galaxy that leaves him feeling humbled. What or where is that for you?

Transition: In our passage today, Luke describes a glory-filled moment. One that communicates the nature of the kingdom of God and continues to answer the question "Who is this Jesus?"

Read:

Luke 9:27-36

²⁷ "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

²⁸ About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray.²⁹ As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.³⁰ Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus.³¹ They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.³² Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.³³ As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)

³⁴ While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and covered them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud.³⁵ A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."³⁶ When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves and did not tell anyone at that time what they had seen.

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1. Luke is describing Jesus being clothed in glory. How does he try and describe this? Consider looking at Mark 9:2-13 and Matthew 17:1-13, other gospel accounts which describe the transfiguration.

2. There were three disciples with Jesus on the mountain (Peter, James, and John), experiencing this transcendent, glory-packed moment. They went on to write about their experience:
 - a. Read John 1:14 & 2 Peter 1:16-18. Where do you see nods to the transfiguration in these verses?

 - b. Why do these awe-inspired moments (a sunrise, a mountaintop, Jesus's shining face) impact us so much?

 - c. Why do we need reminders that we're a part of a much bigger story? Where do people tend to forget this?

3. Peter noticed that Elijah and Moses were enrobed in glory, indicating that we, God's people, will share in glory when Jesus returns. How does this challenge you to see yourself and other people now?

To explore this more, consider reading the excerpt from C.S. Lewis' *The Weight of Glory*

Transition: Dave mentioned that James, Peter, and John would've been thinking back to many Old Testament moments with Moses and Elijah, the pinnacle moment being God giving Moses and the Israelites the 10 Commandments. Similarly, they were on a mountain, light and power was displayed, and the spectators admitted their awe and fear.

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Read:

[Exodus 19:16-20, 20:18-19](#)

¹⁶ On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. ¹⁷ Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. ¹⁹ As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.

²⁰ The Lord descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up...

¹⁸ When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance ¹⁹ and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die."

4. How do the Israelites respond to God's power?

5. How is the kingdom of God described similarly in the transfiguration in Luke 19?

6. How does reading Exodus 19 & 20 broaden your understanding of the transfiguration?

7. At the end of the sermon, Dave asked us to reflect on the question: do you want glory from earthly kingdoms more than you want the glory promised in the kingdom of God? If we're honest, we all forget the glory of the kingdom of God that's promised to us. We fall for lesser glories, often. What lesser glory do you find yourself looking toward for temporary splendor? Wealth? Approval? Pleasure? Something else?

8. How can we remind each other that living for the kingdom of God is a better story?

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Sharing and Prayer:

Share ways the group can be praying for each other. Pray together. That we would be people living in the kingdom of God and not falling for earthly kingdoms.