

Apostles Houston  
Life Group Study: Mark 9:2-10

## **Love and Laughter**

### Creating a Sacred Space

Welcome→ Embrace→ Refresh

## **Remembering Our Purpose**

### Why Do We Do Life Groups? (*feel free to communicate this in your own words*)

In Acts 2, we read how early Christ followers devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. In Life Groups we follow their example with the hope of becoming more like Jesus, the goal of our salvation.

## **Being Known**

### Story Telling

We believe that loving God and others begins by being known.

*In 5-7 minutes, what do you want us to know about yourself (~5Hs)?*

### Pray and Celebrate

Be sure to honor whatever is good or beautiful about their story, and ask one or two people to pray over those who just shared.

## **Following Up**

### Responding to God's Word

Last week, we reflected on our preparedness to respond to Jesus' call to disciple the nations. What steps did you take, either in preparation, or in actual discipleship?

## Hearing the Word

Hearing: (Read “Context” and then Mark 9:2-10. Then pray for God’s grace to understand.)

- Before we dive in, what stands out to you from this passage or from the sermon this weekend?
- In vv 2-3, Mark says that Jesus took the disciples up on a “high mountain” and was “transfigured before them.” In the Bible, “mountaintops” are where God often reveals himself or his Word to people. What is being revealed in this story? Have you ever had “mountaintop” moments with God? Did God reveal anything specific to you?
- In v 4, Mark says that Moses and Elijah both appeared with Jesus and were talking with him on the mountain. Of all the OT characters who might have appeared, the significance of these two is that they both rejected the luxuries of royal courts and suffered the consequences of confronting defiant rulers. What has taking up the cross to follow Christ looked like in your life? Have you had to forgo promotions, advantages, or luxuries? Are you open to doing so?
- Still not understanding why Jesus had to die, in v 5, Peter offers to make three tents (*lit.* “tabernacles”) for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. He likely hoped that this would be the day that God would once again dwell with his people as he did in the wilderness. In what ways have you had to be patient for God to move in your life? How has God used that time to grow you spiritually, or redirect what it is you are waiting for?
- In vv 7-8, the presence and voice of God descended upon them and spoke the same words He spoke over Jesus at his baptism, “this is my beloved Son;” followed with the command, “listen to him.” The command, “listen to him,” carries the meaning, *allegiance*: “listen to him, *alone*.” What voices do you find competing for your allegiance (whole-hearted devotion)? How can we as a Life Group help each other stay faithful?

### Obeying (application)

- The primary way God speaks to His people is through His Word. This week, consider spending time each day in the Scriptures, asking God to speak to you. Try meditating on a verse, journaling through a passage, or just sitting/listening in silence.

## Soul Care

### Prayer Requests

Spend time in prayer of gratitude and supplication as a group, confident of Jesus’ presence. There are NO ANNOUNCEMENTS this week, so after this you can close.

## Teacher's Notes

### Context

This passage reveals Jesus in his heavenly glory. It comes right after he speaks with his disciples about taking up their crosses and following him to suffer and die. In that passage, he goes on to say that those who seek to save their lives will lose them, and those who lose their lives (for his sake) will save them in the end (meaning, they will share with him in his divine glory). As we read this passage, be on the lookout for how the disciples, especially Peter, respond to this revelation, and how God responds to them.

### Specific Insights

- With the exception of one (below), all the insights are provided in the questions.
- Beyond what is noted in the question about Moses and Elijah, they also represented the “Law” and the “Prophets,” meaning Israel’s Scriptures (the Old Testament).
- **Concerning the revelation of Jesus’ glory on the mountain.** Mark describes Jesus’ transfiguration by saying that his clothes became “radiant, intensely white,” and Matthew adds that his face “shone like the sun.” Mark also tells us that Jesus was referred to himself most often as the “Son of Man.” Combined, these two features suggest that Jesus is the “Son of Man” we read about in Daniel 7, who ascends to the Ancient of Days and is given “honor, glory, and a kingdom.” In other words, the transfiguration reveals that Jesus is the world’s true lord and king (i.e, the Christ), as confessed by Peter in the chapter before.