

Opening Prayer: (Common to all Groups)

Lord, we thank you for today and for this time to gather as friends in faith. We pray for our church and our community. Guide us and help us to deepen friendships and seek to grow in faith together. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Opening Discussion

1. How is everyone? Highs and lows from the week?
2. Do you have favourite piece of clothing?

What is a Small Group?

- Faith Exercise - Intentionally deepening our relationship with God.
- Building Community - Intentionally deepening our relationship with others in faith.
- Common Interest – Intentionally celebrating common ground.

Group Parameters:

- Gatherings will begin with Prayer & Scripture to unify this ministry across the groups.
- Members will remain courteous and ensure that everyone is given the opportunity to share.
- Thoughts and feelings shared are private and should remain confidential.
- You are encouraged to share news but cautioned about crossing into the territory of gossip.
- Grow in friendship, faith, and community with one another through this experience.

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing clearly the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

Mark 9:2-9 ~ The Transfiguration

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

The Coming of Elijah

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

DAYS
HIGH
PETER
ELIJAH
JOHN
RABBI
WHITE
WORLD
APPEARED
MOSES
LOVE
DAZZLING
CLOTHES
GOOD
SIX
MOUNTAIN
BLEACH
VOICE
ALONE
JAMES

I P E T E R Z Z K E M T F F K
B P S Q Q R A B B I L A Y P Z
Q Q A H E L J E P J T I V H R
G M G N W F G G K V K G J O L
S I O G O Z N J O O J O M A X
H L B S R I L O Z I P O O G H
A B Y T L V K H C C C D O K Z
M A L Z D A W N W E Q Z E L T
D O Z E J M P B W H I T E X K
S A U M A Q O P C L O T H E S
D I Q N L C A S E M L V P O C
S B X H T O H W E A Z R G Z V
Q Z Y R G A V C Z S R O X R Z
P Q V O Y W I E T H N E G S K
K J A M E S Y N N O N C D C Z





Discussion Questions

In our practical and pragmatic culture, visions and ecstatic experiences are met with skepticism and unbelief. Understandably so because they are extremely rare. In the entire ministry of Jesus (in the Gospel of Mark), there are only 3 times when such meta-physical anomalies occurred (at his baptism when the voice of God spoke to him, at his transfiguration when the voice of God spoke to the disciples present, and at his death when "...Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.")

BAPTISM (1:9–11)	TRANSFIGURATION (9:2–9)	CRUCIFIXION (15:33–39)
Heavens rent	Garments turn white	Sanctuary veil rent
Dove descends	Cloud descends	Darkness spreads
Voice from heaven	Voice from cloud	Jesus' great voice
"You are my Son, beloved"	"This is my Son, beloved"	"Truly this man was Son of God"
John the Baptist as Elijah	Moses appears with Elijah	"Is he calling Elijah?"

Psalm 50

The Acceptable Sacrifice

A Psalm of Asaph.

- ¹ The mighty one, God the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.
- ² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth.
- ³ Our God comes and does not keep silent; before him is a devouring fire and a mighty tempest all around him.
- ⁴ He calls to the heavens above and to the earth, that he may judge his people:
- ⁵ "Gather to me my faithful ones, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice!"
- ⁶ The heavens declare his righteousness, for God himself is judge. *Selah*

There are lots of other examples of the miraculous in the ministry of Jesus in the gospel of Mark (power over nature, power over unclean spirits, power over illness, etc.). But these 3 stories stand apart for what they reveal of the true 'nature'(s) of Jesus.

They identify that the One who will carry the cross will do so because it is the central goal and object of his earthly ministry. This passage telling of the transfiguration is book-ended by passion predictions (Jesus foretelling his death and resurrection). This has implications for how we approach the cross. Jesus is portrayed as having 'all power and authority within himself' and yet, lays down his life. Jesus is not some unfortunate prophet that gets killed. Jesus is not some political figure who succumbed to the power of Rome. Jesus is the Son of God who willingly offers his life so that we can have life.

The Transfiguration story is used each year on the last Sunday of Epiphany (the season in which we ask the question, 'who is this one who is the light of the world?'). On Wednesday we enter the season of Lent and begin to watch in earnest the journey that Jesus will make on our behalf that leads to the lonely cross on the hill just outside the city gates of Jerusalem.

At the core of the epiphany season is the question, "what does it mean for us that our God comes to stand within the very midst of humanity through Jesus Christ?" At the core of Lent is the question, "what does it mean for us that Jesus Christ willingly offers himself as a sacrifice in order to liberate humanity from sin and death?" Discuss the above questions. How does this Gospel passage that recalls the transfiguration of Jesus, stretch your understanding and imagination about the nature and identity of Jesus Christ?

How can the group pray for you this week?



Musical Reflection: *Goodness of God – CeCe Winans*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9sE5kEnitqE>



BLAST Kids Club is learning about the Fruit of the Spirit.

This week we are exploring Kindness & Goodness.

Philippians 2:4

⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others.

James 4:17

¹⁷ Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do and fails to do it commits sin.

Therefore welcome one another as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. – Romans 15:7