

The background is a piece of aged, textured paper with a mottled, light brown and beige color palette. The paper has a rough, deckled edge. A crown of thorns, made of dark brown, sharp, and jagged branches, is positioned in the lower half of the image, partially overlapping the text.

The Transfiguration

9
Mark

Day

1

1. As you recall Mark is writing this book to present Jesus' call to discipleship. Following Jesus is a relationship not merely adherence to rules and laws. Mark 9:1 is an important verse tying Jesus' teaching in Mark 8 to the event that would be described in Mark 9. Many translations of Mark 9 begin with the word "and." Read Mark 8:31-38 and Mark 9 once or twice before starting this study guide. Pray asking the Lord to bless your time in his word.
2. In Mark 8:31-38 Jesus told of his imminent death and resurrection. Read Romans 12:1 to see what the apostle Paul calls this.
What might this look like in your own life?
3. In Mark 9:2 we see Jesus did not take all the disciples but chose three to follow him up on the mountain. Who were the three chosen?
Can you imagine being there and seeing what they saw? Would you ever forget something this amazing?
4. Mark 9:1 makes a reference to "the kingdom of God" and says it has come with power. Look up the word power in the Strong's Concordance. It is the word "dunamis." Write out the definition for this word. What do you believe Jesus wants the focus on?
5. Look up the verses below and briefly state what you learn about "the kingdom of God."

Matthew 6:33
Matthew 19:24
Matthew 21:28-31
Mark 1:15
Mark 10:15
John 3:3-6
6. What event is described in Mark 9:2-8?
7. Who appears and joins Jesus, Peter, James, and John?
8. What does Mark 9:4 say these men were doing?

Day

2

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9. God clearly reveals that Jesus has divine authority. Write out the instructions given to the disciples by God.
 10. Do you feel the instructions God gave them apply to believers today?
If so, what is something Jesus has spoken to you about so far in this study?
 11. In verses 8-13 we see Jesus and his three disciples coming down from the mountain. I am sure they were talking about the events of the day while they walked. Jesus told them not to talk about this until after he had risen from the dead. Why do you believe Jesus would have instructed them not to talk about this event? What happens when we talk about things without a full understanding?

12. The Jews had long been looking forward to the day Messiah would come. Jesus reminded them of what the prophets had said would happen to the Messiah. In verse 12 Jesus said he would suffer much and be rejected. How different were the expectations of the Israelites concerning the coming of their Messiah?
Were they looking for a suffering savior?
13. Stop for a few minutes and think about your relationship with Jesus. How did you begin your day today? Starting our day with gratitude and thanksgiving can usher us into the very presence of God. Read Psalm 100:4, how were the Israelites to enter the temple courtyard?
Psalm 100:4
"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!"
Has God changed?
Is there some new way to come before Him, or is a thankful heart still key to entering his presence?
Let's practice thankfulness and praise this week. When you are in your small group discuss ways this focus has made a difference.
14. Mark 9:14-29 describe the scene Jesus and the other disciples saw when they returned. What was going on?
15. The father of the boy was able to clearly identify the problem. His son had a demon spirit that had robbed him of his speech, and his health. He brought the boy to Jesus' disciples and yet there is still a problem. The problem was not that the disciples did not try. What did Jesus say was the reason they were unable to help?
16. Read Colossians 4:2 and 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, what do these verses teach concerning prayer?
17. Look at the words of this young boy's father in Mark 9:22-23. What did the father say to Jesus?
18. Jesus points to the faith of those present, those who long to see the boy free of this demon. What did Jesus tell them?
19. I love the father's response in verse 24. Have you ever prayed for something important knowing that your faith was weak? It is not that you do not believe the Lord is able, but more, would he do what you are asking?
20. The text tells us the father cried out. Do you believe there may have been some tears also? Put yourself in his sandals for a few minutes. Your child can't speak and is constantly tormented and injuring himself. You have brought him to Jesus because you have heard or perhaps even seen his miracles. And Jesus has told you the problem is your lack of faith. What would you say?

Day

3

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21. Is there something you are asking God to do, some difficult situation you are asking him to heal, a relationship you would like to see restored, or a loved one you would like to see delivered from what has them in bondage?
Could part of the reason you have not seen a miracle be your lack of faith?

It is not that you think God is not able, but perhaps a lack of confidence that he would God do this for me. It is difficult sometimes to ask believing. Read 1 John 5:13-15, now write out a prayer about this need.

22. Please take a few minutes to think about a need a friend or loved one has shared with you, how fervently have you been praying for their need? James 5:16 says “... *The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*” KJV
Look up and define these words:

- effectual,
- fervent,
- prayer
- righteous

23. Go online and look up James 5:16 in several translations, NIV, ESV, NASV, MSG
Now write the verse in your own words.

24. After answering these last several questions, what have you learned about our part in seeing our prayers answered?

25. How complete was the healing of this young man?
What do you base your answer on?

26. The disciples are puzzled by the fact that they could not help this man and his son. It was not because they did not want to help. It was probably a bit embarrassing to see they were unable to help someone who had come with such a need. The disciples asked Jesus “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”
What did Jesus tell them?

27. Have you ever been puzzled by your own ineffectiveness?
When the problem seems impossible, it is imperative that we are completely trusting God’s power and provision. We would be wise to stop and ask ourselves, am I solely dependent on God for power to move this mountain?

Day

4

28. Once again Jesus desires some alone time with his disciples so he can instruct them. Did the disciples understand Jesus in verses 30-32?

29. Why didn’t the disciples ask Jesus to clarify?
Why do you believe they were afraid to ask Jesus to explain himself further?

30. This next section of scripture may help us understand a bit better why the disciples were unable to understand what Jesus was saying when he talked about suffering, dying, and being resurrected. Read Mark 9:33-37, what were the disciples discussing as they walked to Capernaum that day?

What would you say is the heart issue behind their problem?
Why do you believe Jesus called a child over to him?

31. Read Philippians 2:3-8, how does the apostle Paul tell believers they are to end rivalry and disputes?

This is often referred to as a “servant’s heart.” Would those words describe you?
What might you do today to empty yourself and take on this Christ-like quality?

32. There are so many churches today, what did Jesus say in verse 38-41 about linking arms to help meet a need?
33. Jesus said if you give a cup of cool water in his name you will be rewarded. Is there any act of kindness so small that God does not see it? There was a song we sang in church when I was young, "Little is much when God is in it." What can God do with our little act of kindness done in his name?
34. Plan to do at least one small act of kindness, in Jesus' name, every day this week. Then share it with your group.
35. In verses 42-48 we see a repeated phrase, "it would be better."

	If...	It would be better
Mark 9:42	Anyone causes on of these little (innocent) ones to stumble	
Mark 9:43	Hand causes you to stumble/sin	
Mark 9:45	foot causes you to stumble/sin	
Mark 9:47	Eye causes you to stumble/sin	

36. What is the clear warning of Jesus in verses 42-48?
How important is the example we set and the values we live by?

Day

5

37. The values we live by are fundamental for productivity, purpose, and meaning in life. Identifying our personal core values will help us navigate even the most difficult of situations. Core values are the 3-5 top values we consider of the utmost importance. We base our decisions on these because they define who we are and what we want to be known by. Do you know your core values?
What stirs up righteous feelings inside you?
What brings you the most purpose and joy?
If you are not sure what your core values are look at the list on the last page of this lesson.
Circle 3-5 values you consider non-negotiables. This is in no way an exhaustive list, but it will help you narrow down your values.
38. Mark 9:48-50 have been discussed over the years by many commentators. These verses speak to the never-ending corruption and suffering of those who are sent to hell. But that was never God's plan for his created treasure. God so loved the world that he gave his Son as an atoning sacrifice for all men, women, and children. Read Matthew 5:13-16 and Luke 14:34 to go along with verse 50. In these verses the life and actions of a Believer are compared to salt. Take a few minutes to think about salt, what are some of the uses and benefits of salt?
39. List some ways you are being salt in your family, at work, in your community?

Circle the top five core values that you feel apply to you. There are spaces to add others.

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| Accountability | Friendliness | Obedience | Transparency |
| Attitude | Generosity | Openness | Trustworthiness |
| Authenticity | Gentleness | Optimism | Truth |
| Balance | Godliness | Order | Unity |
| Boldness | Goodness | Passion | Understanding |
| Bravery | Grace | Patience | Vision |
| Character | Gratefulness | Peace | Vitality |
| Collaboration | Growth | Perseverance | Wisdom |
| Compassion | Health | Personal Growth | Worship |
| Confidence | Honesty | Prayer | Zeal |
| Courage | Honor | Purity | _____ |
| Creativity | Hope | Quietness | _____ |
| Dedication | Humility | Relationships | _____ |
| Devotion | Humor | Reliability | _____ |
| Discipleship | Integrity | Respect | _____ |
| Discipline | Intimacy | Sacrifice | _____ |
| Discovery | Joy | Self-control | _____ |
| Diversity | Justice | Self-discipline | |
| Efficiency | Kindness | Selflessness | |
| Encouragement | Knowing God | Servant Leadership | |
| Endurance | Leadership | Servanthood | |
| Enthusiasm | Learning | Sharing truth in love | |
| Evangelism | Listening | Steadfastness | |
| Excellence | Loyalty | Stewardship | |
| Faith | Mercy | Submission | |
| Faithfulness | Meekness
(strength under control) | Teachability | |
| Family | Nurturing others | Teamwork | |
| Fellowship | | Thankfulness | |