

Picture Reflection (below) and Bible Study (next page)



Wow! - Mark 9 :2-9 Transfiguration

Jesus invited his three closest disciples to go up the mountain with him. This mountain-top adventure provided a glimpse of the glory of God, but it was a passing experience and they then had to come down from the mountain.

- Spend a few minutes with this image of the mountains...
- How does this image illustrate your experience of 'wow' moments when you have climbed to the top of hills or mountains?
- Reflect on times when you may have had an intense awareness of the glory of God...what feelings were left behind to rekindle...You might like to take time to rekindle those feelings now....
- So often we are too busy to take the time to experience the glory of God...work....routines...family pressures fill our lives so that we cannot have a 'wow' moment...What would you like to say to God about that? How might you change your life?
- What experiences have been transformative in your life? Was God part of that / them?
- How close do you feel to God today?
- How do we feel about 'coming down the mountain' after a 'wow' moment? Why would it not be good to stay on the mountain?

Bible Study Questions

Mark 9:2-9

Six 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, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As 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.

Six days before this event Jesus asks the disciples 'who do you say that I am?' and Peter answers 'you are the Messiah'. Jesus then tells the disciples for the first time that he must undergo great suffering and be rejected and killed and rise again. Peter is horrified. He was expecting a different kind of messiah. Then follows this intimate and amazing event involving just Peter, James and John, that affirms who Jesus is and his authority. 'Listen to him' the voice from heaven tells the three disciples as Jesus is transfigured and they see beyond his humanity to a glimpse of his divinity.

- Who were Elijah and Moses? What is the significance of their appearing with Jesus here?
- Why do you think Peter wants to make 3 dwellings?
- When have you caught glimpses of God's glory and how have you reacted?
- 'Listen to him' the voice from heaven tells the disciples and us. How do you listen to Jesus?
- In Mark's gospel Jesus often tells the disciples not to tell others about things he does. This is known as the messianic secret. Why might Jesus have done this? Here he tells the disciples not to tell others about his transfiguration until after the resurrection. What is the significance of this timing?
- The transfiguration is always celebrated on the Sunday before lent starts. Why is it a helpful event for this turning point in the church year do you think?