

CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

– COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE –

Jesus Encounters Series

“Transforming Encounter” – Luke 9:28-37

FELLOWSHIP

There is quite an art form when it comes to cinematic “sneak peeks.” The financial success or failure of a feature film can hinge opening weekend on the expectation of a well put together preview. Just how much of the story and the key scenes are shown in the trailers are key to building anticipation. Certain franchises such as Star Wars have this pre-release medium down to a science as they carefully craft their teasers. They space out the visual snippets at just the right intervals so the fandom is ready to spend whatever it takes to be first in line for the unveiling. For Peter, James and John, it doesn’t appear they knew this excursion was going to include a preview of coming attractions. Jesus brought these men with the intention to model the importance of prayer. Even more, it was an invitation into the inner-workings of his partnership with God. These were the strategy sessions where Jesus would re-align, re-invigorate, and re-purpose himself with his Father’s plan for him. Just eight days earlier, Jesus had forecast that some among them would not taste death until they had seen the kingdom of heaven. This core group didn’t realize the sneak peek was about to happen. Rather they crashed into a heavy sleep. Imagine their surprise when they woke and saw Moses and Elijah, the two most significant figures in the Hebrew prophet Hall of Fame, reviewing Jesus’ exit plan for his earthly mission. Their reactions are not surprisingly, very confused. What happens next clears their mental fog, as if straight from a scene in Exodus, God appears in the cloud, settles over them and audibly speaks. *Jesus is the chosen one, and they are to listen to him.* What they thought might have been a simple prayer walk to find solace on the mountain had turned into a Mt. Sinai encounter. No wonder Luke finishes his narrative pointing out these three descended the mountain in silence. It would take years before they were able to express to others what happened that day.

READ & DISCUSS

Read out loud together as a group Luke 9:28-37 and discuss any observations that would be applicable to life today. The thirty-seventh verse is part of the next scene, but in light of all the Old Testament motifs, how does it help finish our section and harken back to Exodus?

Luke 9:28-29 *Now about eight days after these sayings he took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was altered, and his clothing became dazzling white.*

- What is significant about Jesus’ face and clothes changing in light of his description in Revelation 1:12-17? Why does God make an effort to differentiate Jesus from the two other prophets? How is this important today regarding his clout and significance? How do other religions describe him or weigh his importance? Why is his nature important to how we interact with him?
- They say, “Prayer changes things.” Most take this to apply to their circumstances. *How can prayer change us? Prayer definitely had an effect on Jesus, how does it affect you?* (cf. Philippians 4:6-7) *Why is it important to have prayer as a spiritual discipline?*
- The importance of at least two or three appears to be a significant formula for authenticity and permanency in spiritual matters. Read Matt. 18:15-20. *What are the benefits of prayer in community? What have you seen God do through your shared prayers? How has praying with others changed you?*
- The disciples had a hard time processing Jesus’ ongoing prediction of his looming death. Seeing Moses and Elijah alive probably affirmed the hope that death isn’t the end. *How has the promise of resurrection helped you in the loss of a loved one? What are the different ways culture has tried to deal with death? How does the Bible describe the afterlife? Why is there hope? Will we have wings?*

PRAY

How has this series encouraged your personal prayer life? Who has it placed on your heart to pray they would have an encounter with the Lord? Let’s pray for courage to introduce Jesus to them!



Community Group Discussion Guide

Based on Pastor Mike Harris’ message on August 27, 2017.

Watch: <https://cccm.com/teaching/jesus-encounters/video/sunday-morning-8-27-17/>