

Bible Study in Matthew 17 1-13
For Home Groups in the week commencing 20th June 2011.

Welcome.

Go around the Group and share things that irritate you – that really “get your goat” (just one each!!).

Word.

There are lots of questions here! Perhaps too many, so decide beforehand which ones are most appropriate for your group – but most importantly try to complete the witness suggestion

Q: Have some people skim Mark 8:27-38, and others Luke 9:10-27 What is the context of the Transfiguration passage? How do you think the disciples are feeling after their return from their mission, and Jesus' words? How is Peter feeling?

Q: Therefore what do you think has been happening between Matthew 16:28 and Matthew 17:1?

*Please read **Matthew 17:1-13***

Q: Only 3 accompany Jesus, 9 stayed in the valley below. What genuine difficulties do we have making time to be alone with God. Can the group make any helpful suggestions?

Imagine four people snaking their way up the mountain. The trip has been long and the hour is late. A level place in the mountainside is reached and they sit down. They are tired. Their muscles hurt. The twilight settles over them like a soft cloth. Imagine Jesus sitting in the shadows. Legs crossed. face skyward. The stars wink at their Maker. He slips off his sandals and rubs his sore feet and gazes far off into the horizon. God with sore legs, holiness with hunger, Divinity with a thirst? The World Maker is made weary by his World.

Q: What is he doing there? Better question: why is he there?

Q: Why are prayer meetings such a low-priority for Christians?

Q: What does prayer do? Make a list of the things that happen when we pray?

Q: Share how people pray, the different styles and techniques, how does our personality affect the way we pray?

Q: In what ways are we not aware of the fact that prayer changes us?

Q: Why do you think Moses and Elijah appeared to Jesus – What did they represent? What were they doing? Why do you think this helped Jesus?

As Jesus was praying, the appearance of his face changed and his clothes became as bright as lightning. There on that mountain top, the inner presence of God's Spirit bursts through. Jesus becomes a worked example, for you and me: we see physically what is spiritually going on, the reality of tomorrow's hope, his true calling, his true identity takes over his being and becomes his strength!

Q: Why did Peter offer to build tents for Jesus and Moses and Elijah?

Q: What is the difference between seeking an experience of God and seeking God?

Q: Are the consequences of prayer/worship about an experience or about mission?

Q: How as individuals and as a church may we be transformed?

What does this mean for us valley dwellers? Well, when the waves of temptation and failure sweep us away, when the pressures of the world grind us to frustration and we fail – We need to go to the mountain top, to set

our eyes upon Jesus; and when the storm thunders around us and our plans crash about our ears, and all seems lost – We need to go to the mountain top, to set our eyes upon Jesus; and when our loved ones slip away and our own life fades. We need to go to the mountain top, to set our eyes upon Jesus. As a people and as a church we need to be transformed. As a people and as a church we need the glory of God to change us from inside to out. As a people and as a church we need to make the sacrifice to climb the mountain and when we get there to look to Jesus. Mountain Views for Valley Living -- that's what we need.

Witness.

Will the group promise each other to set time aside each day to spend time quietly with God. Will they also be ready to share their experiences of the week in a fortnight's time?