



Small Group Discussion Guide

"The Gospel of Mark"

Week of April 9, 2018

Open your group with a time of sharing and prayer. Ask God to bless the countywide "40 Days of Prayer" beginning this week. Are you going to be part of it?

- I. Today let's look at two incidents recorded in Mark 9, beginning with the Transfiguration. Read [Mark 9:1-13](#). Do you think the transfiguration fulfills Jesus' prediction in verse 1? Explain your answer. Why Moses and Elijah? What does each represent from the Old Testament and how do they relate to Jesus' ministry?

*Why do you suppose Peter spoke up? What was he wanting to do and why? What does God's voice signify? Again, Jesus tells his disciples not to talk about their experience until after his resurrection. Why not? Note [\(2 Peter 1:16-18, John 1:14\)](#).

*What about Elijah (verse 11)? Note [\(Malachi 4:5-6\)](#). Who does Jesus say fulfilled this prophecy? See also [\(Isaiah 40:3-5\)](#)

- II. Now read [Mark 9:33-37](#). In what ways are Christians today like those first disciples? What sorts of things do Christians (and churches) tend to argue about? What's the central point of our arguments? When is arguing constructive [\(Jude 3-5\)](#) and when does it become destructive? Note [\(Romans 14:1,13,19\)](#)

*How does Jesus squelch the disciples' contentions? Is there something wrong with the desire for greatness? How does God define a great person? What childlike character does Jesus call his disciples to emulate? What ways could this be manifest in our churches and between Christians of different denominations?

Close your group by praying for greater humility. Be ready to answer your own prayers by taking opportunities to humbly serve others in the days ahead.



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