

Tuesday Bible Study 2019: Mountaintops

Skit Review Questions:

1. Ask a camper to review what happened in the skit
2. What did the characters in the skit get distracted by? Did you relate to any of the characters in the skit?
3. What mountaintop did Chris experience in the skit?
4. Why did Chris have to come back down the mountain?

Practice Memory Verse:

Psalm 16:11 “You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.”

(Practice the theme verse with actions so the campers can remember it better)

Theme Related Activity:

1. Read 1 Samuel 7:12
2. Have your campers go grab an “Ebenezer” stone from around camp. (This can be any stone they find which they like due to color, shape, size, etc. They should be able to carry it with one hand for the purposes of this activity. You may opt to have a small bag of decorative rocks from landscaping or a craft store available if you like.)
3. Explain to your campers what an Ebenezer stone is and how it represents a spiritual marker in our faith story. An Ebenezer helps us remember a time when God shows up in our lives. It reminds us of a “mountaintop experience”. (Possibly reference the song Come Thou Fount)
4. Holding the stone, have each camper share about a “mountaintop experience” or major moment where they felt God’s presence. How did they feel? Would they return to that moment?

***Indoors option: Have your campers draw or write about their mountaintop experience.*

Bible Study:

Main Story/Text: Read Mark 9:2-9

Story Recap:

- **How was with Jesus?** Peter, James, and John
- **Where did they go?** Up a high mountain
- **How did Jesus’ appearance change?** His clothes became dazzling white.
- **Who appeared with Jesus and talked to him?** Moses and Elijah
- **What can you tell me about Moses and Elijah?**
 - o Moses – Baby floated in the Nile, grew up in Egypt in Pharaoh’s house, eventually led God’s people out of slavery in Egypt, 10 Commandments, Burning Bush

- Elijah – Prophet, challenged those who worship Baal where God burns the offering on the water soaked altar, finds God in the “still small voice”
- **What to Peter, James, and John want to do when they see what is happening?** Build a tent, stay on the mountain.
 1. What from the story stood out to you or was interesting? *Discuss with your campers*
 2. What does the word transfiguration mean?
 - a. *Transfiguration comes from the word Metamorphosis, which means a change of the form or nature of a thing or person into a completely different one, by natural or supernatural means. For younger campers, the word transformed could also be more easily understood. Think of a caterpillar transforming into a butterfly.*
 3. Older camper question: When Jesus momentarily changed into a glorified or resurrected state, what does this show us?
 - a. *When Jesus transfigured, he gave us a glimpse of the end of the story (eternity with Him) and the reality of him as our Savior, to show who he really was.*
 4. Younger camper question: Why did Jesus change his appearance in this story?
 - a. *He wanted to show us a glimpse of what it would be like in eternity with Him as our savior. He wanted to show the disciples more about who he really was.*

Main Point #1: God is calling us up the mountain every day.

- 1. Why does God call us up the mountain?**
 - a. *God calls us up the mountain so we can experience His presence in a special and unique way..*
- 2. Who are some other people from the bible who were called up to the mountain?**
(You can also just introduce these people for younger campers if they’re not sure)
 - a. *Abraham and Isaac (Gen. 22)*
 - b. *Moses and 10 commandments (Ex. 24)*
 - c. *Israel defeating Philistines (1 Sam. 7)*
- 3. Do you make regular time for silence and stillness with God? Where do you do that? If you don’t have a place where you can spend quiet time with God, where is a place you could do that?** (ie. bedroom, outdoors, etc.)
- 4. What are some things that prevent you from going up the mountain and getting closer to God?**
 - a. *Distractions, too tired, too “busy”, putting other things above God, etc.*
- 5. Who do our mountaintop experiences and joyous moments come from?** Read James 1:17.
 - a. *God sends a lot of joyous moments, days, and times into our life*

Main Point #2: God’s glory and power is revealed to us on the mountaintops.

- 1. In the story, why was Jesus revealing his majesty and power? (Mark 9:3)**

- a. *His clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them*
- 2. Read Daniel 7:9. How is the description of God in this scripture similar to the description of Jesus in Mark?
 - a. *His clothing was as white as snow and his hair like purest wool.*
- 3. Read Psalm 104: 1-2. How does the author describe God in these verses? *Discuss with campers*
- 4. How have you seen God's glory and power revealed in your life? *Discuss with campers*
- 5. What are some responses we can have to God's glory and power?
 - a. *Praise, adoration, worship, etc.*
- 6. What are some everyday "mountaintop experiences" that show us God's glory?
 - a. *We see these everyday mountaintop experiences in our quiet time with God, or seeing his majesty and goodness in nature around us, or when people are kind to us, etc. Sometimes our mountaintop experiences aren't "huge" like going on a mountain but it is the everyday experiences of seeing God.*

Main Point #3: God changes lives on the mountaintops

- 1. Read Exodus 24:12-18
- 2. How did God change Moses life on the mountaintop?
 - a. *Moses mountaintop experience prepared him to lead God's people to the Promised Land.*
- 3. What did the cloud represent in the story?
 - a. *It showed the glory of God and his presence*
- 4. Older campers: How has God changed your life from your own mountaintop experiences? *Discuss with campers*
- 5. Younger campers: How has something that God has done impacted you/ how has it been important to you? *Discuss with campers*
- 6. People who encountered Jesus experienced life change in the presence of God, how can our own lives be changed when we encounter Jesus and experience a relationship with Him?
 - a. *We learn more about who God is and who He says we are*

Main Point #4: God sends us back down the mountain

- 1. Why can't we stay on top of the "mountains" all the time? Read Matthew 28:18-19
 - a. *Because we are meant to come down the mountain, to share and learn from what happened and what we experienced. The valley is where we live out our mission. It is where we can live out the great commission and make disciples of all nations.*
- 2. Reread Mark 9:5, Why did Peter want to make a memorial to what happened on the mountain? Why didn't Jesus allow him to do that?

- a. So he could relive that mountaintop experience again and again. Jesus wanted his followers to understand that they can't always stay on the mountaintops.*
3. **Are you holding on to your mountaintop experience instead of holding on to Jesus?**
Discuss with campers
4. **How can we share our mountaintop experiences with others? How have your mountaintop experiences encouraged you to keep going when life isn't fun?** *Discuss with campers*
5. **Peter came down the mountain understanding that Jesus is the center of the story, where does Jesus stand in your life? What's at the center of your life?**

If Time for older campers:

1. Read Mark 9:7-8. What does the cloud point to in the story about who Jesus is?
 - a. The cloud symbolized God's presence, which meant Jesus had God's authority. It indicated that Jesus is Lord.*
2. After his mountaintop experience, Jesus goes back into the valley knowing he was heading to be crucified. Why does he do this?
 - a. He understood that His mission was in the valley, and that's where he needed to be*

If Time for younger campers:

1. Read 1 Kings 19:11-18
2. Where was God in the story?
 - a. God was in the gentle whisper*
3. Why was God revealed in the gentle whisper instead of the mighty wind, the earthquake, or the fire?
 - a. Because when God speaks to us, he is right there close to us*

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