

June 9 - Transfiguration: The Glory of Jesus – Leader’s Guide

Readings: 2 Cor 3:18-4:1,5-6; Luke 9:7-9,18-36

1. The Apostle Paul in today’s reading from 2 Cor uses the phrase “We do not lose heart”. What are some things that have been causing you to lose heart lately?

Allow a time of sharing, and maybe have something ready to share of your own.

2. What are some of the theories as to the identity of Jesus? Why do you think these theories arose?

Some thought he was John the Baptist revived; some said Elijah; and some said one of the other prophets. All of these answers display that the people did think Jesus was a prophet of some kind. Elijah was also a miracle-worker. Malachi 4:5 prophesies that Elijah will come before the great and glorious day of the Lord – so some thought Jesus must be he.

3. What were the expectations around the Messiah? How has our Christian understanding of the Messiah coloured how we see the disciples’ understanding of him?

Some of the expectations were that he would be God’s anointed one, from the line of David, who would rule over the nations and would restore a time of justice and peace. There were conflicted understandings of the nature of the Messiah, but no one at that time would have understood him to be God himself in human form.

4. How do you understand the call to “deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Jesus”?

Allow a time of reflection and sharing. This call is a challenge for everyone, but will also look different for everyone: from literal martyrdom, to personal sacrifices of comfort or time, to forgiveness, praise, confession, and many other things.

5. What were the three separate confirmations of Jesus’ identity in God’s proclamation? How did they relate to Old Testament scriptures?

“My Son – the Chosen One – Listen to Him”. My Son: from the royal psalms (see Psalm 2:7-8). The Chosen One: from the Suffering Servant passages (see Isaiah 42:1. Listen to Him – from Deut 18:15, where Moses prophesies that God will raise up a prophet like him. Together, these three confirm Jesus’ identity as king, priest, and prophet.

6. What are some of the ways you have seen the glory of Christ reflected in the people around you? How does that affect you?

Allow a time of reflection and sharing.