

From the Mountain to the Mess
Upside Down Kingdom: The Gospel According to Mark
August 3, 2025

Notes

Questions for Personal Reflection and Group Discussion

1. Read Mark 9:1-13.

In your own words, describe what the disciples witnessed on the mountain top.

The biblical name for this event is the 'transfiguration'. What does that word mean?

Why do you think Jesus told the disciples not to tell anyone about what they experienced on the mountain?

What insights did the disciples gain and what questions were they left with after their mountaintop experience? What were they still struggling to understand?

What questions about faith or the way God works in your life (or the world) do you struggle to understand?

2. Read Mark 9:14-29.

Why did the man in this story bring his son to Jesus? What was he hoping would happen?

How did Jesus respond to the man and what was the result?

What hopeless circumstance, broken relationship, or difficult situation do you need to bring to Jesus?

What do you think Jesus' statement in verse 29 about prayer means? What role does prayer play in the life of a disciple?

3. Read Mark 9:33-41.

What misunderstandings about power, position, and worth did Jesus correct for the disciples in this passage?

In what ways have you seen evidence of these same struggles in the church today, or even in your own life?

What counter-cultural kingdom principles does Jesus want His disciples to understand?

Which of these principles is most challenging for you to live out? How might you work on living in greater alignment with Jesus' upside-down kingdom this week?