

# The Mountain is Calling

Luke 9:28-43 | Session 11.09

#### **Before the Session**

Facilitator: In advance of the session

- Review today's scripture text and the session activities to help better facilitate the discussion.
- Have the Bible Background Video ready to view.
- Encourage your group to listen to the FaithElement podcast ahead of the next session (Share the link via email or social media).
- Find web links for underlined items on this session's webpage at faithelement.net.

### Context (From the Current Session Page)

Share this <u>article on mandatory vacation</u> and ask:

- What do you find the biggest benefit to taking a break from work and going on a vacation?
- Where do you go and what are your usual priorities for spending your time when you go on vacation?
- At what points do you find that God is closest to you and how important is it for you to find that peace with God?

- What effect does it have on your life to take a vacation and find that time to connect with God?
- What is it like to have to come back when you've been on such a great vacation?

# Content (From the Mind Session Page)

Read <u>Luke 9:28-43a</u>, and watch the Bible Background Video before asking:

- We read several times in the gospels that Jesus went up on the mountain to pray alone, so why do you think he might have chosen to take Peter, James, and John with him too?
- How might they have known it was Moses and Elijah the Jesus was talking with?
- Why are these two men significant considering who Jesus is and what he's doing?
- What does Peter ask, and what does it say about how he's feeling?
- In what way is the voice different from what was heard at Jesus' baptism and for whose benefit do you think the voice speaks?
- Why do you think Peter, James, and John kept this experience to themselves?
- What effect might this contrast between the mountain top and the healing incident have had on Jesus and his disciples?
- Why do you think Luke placed this story directly after the Transfiguration, and why do you think he told it the way he did?
- Since Jesus is aware of the events that will lead to his arrest and death, what effect might the transfiguration have had on Jesus in this crucial time?

# Closure (from the Youth Session page)

Share this "Spiderman Ending" video and ask:

- While a fictional character like Spiderman can hardly compare with Jesus, how might leaving Mary Jane for one be a little like having to come down from the mountain for the other?
- What kinds of things are important enough to call us away from peak, "feel-good" times to return to face the rest of the world?
- Who needs us enough to make it worth giving up our personal joy?
- What enables us to face the various difficulties we will face in life if we could otherwise avoid them?
- Assuming that we can't stay at church all day, after we leave, what might we do this week that helps other people?

Close with a prayer.