

Bible Study Guide: The Glory of Jesus – Encountering Him in the Transfiguration
Luke 9:28-36

Hook (to open the group conversation)

Ask one or both of these questions to get people talking right away:

- “If you could witness one moment from Jesus’ earthly life in person (besides the resurrection), what would you choose and why?”
- “Have you ever had a moment when God felt so real or His glory so evident that it changed how you saw everything else? What happened?”

These questions naturally lead into the Transfiguration as the “pinnacle moment” of the Gospels short of Easter itself.

Brief Outline and Summary of the Main Passage (Luke 9:28-36)

About eight days after Jesus’ teaching on His coming suffering, death, and the call to take up our cross (Luke 9:18-27), He takes Peter, John, and James up a mountain to pray. While Jesus prays, His appearance is transfigured: His face changes and His clothes become dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appear in glory and speak with Him about His “exodus” (departure) that He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. The disciples, heavy with sleep, wake up to see this glory. Peter, not knowing what to say, suggests building three tents. A cloud overshadows them, and the Father’s voice declares from heaven: “This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!” When the voice fades, Jesus is found alone. The disciples keep silent about what they had seen.

In this mountaintop encounter, the veil is pulled back on Jesus’ divine glory. The event reveals **who Jesus is, what He came to do, and how we receive His glory**—all pointing forward to the cross and resurrection.

Discussion Questions (3-4 for Content and Application)

1. **Who Jesus Is** (Identity & Divine Glory)

Read Luke 9:35 and compare it with the scene in Exodus 33–34 (Moses on the mountain). How does the Transfiguration show that Jesus is greater than Moses and Elijah (the Law and the Prophets)? What does it mean that the light of God’s glory shines *from* Jesus rather than merely *upon* Him (see also Colossians 2:9)?
Application: In what ways do we sometimes treat Jesus as “just another good

teacher or prophet” instead of the radiant Son of God in whom the fullness of deity dwells? How should this vision of His glory reshape our worship and daily awe?

2. **What Jesus Came to Do** (His Exodus at Jerusalem)

Luke alone tells us that Moses and Elijah spoke with Jesus about His “departure/exodus” (Luke 9:31). How does this connect the Old Testament deliverance from Pharaoh to Jesus’ work on the cross? Why does the sermon describe the Transfiguration and Calvary as “photonegatives” of each other? *Application:* We are all enslaved not to Pharaoh but to sin (John 8:34). How does the gospel free us from this deeper slavery? Share a time when you felt the “gravity of sin pulling you down” and how the finished work of Christ gives hope in that struggle.

3. **How We Receive His Glory** (Grace Alone)

The disciples were sleepy, clueless, and even presumptuous (Peter’s suggestion of tents). Yet they still witnessed the glory of the Son of God. What does this teach us about how we receive the benefits of Christ’s work (forgiveness, new life, future glory)? Why is the Father’s command “Listen to Him!” so central? *Application:* In what areas of your Christian life do you tend to rely on your own spiritual strength, consistency, or performance rather than sheer grace? How does the Transfiguration encourage us when we feel spiritually “dozy” or weak?

4. **Overall Response** (Optional if time allows)

The Transfiguration is like a volcanic eruption of Jesus’ hidden glory meant to reshape our entire lives. Looking back at the whole passage, what is one specific way this encounter with the glory of Jesus should change how you follow Him this week (in prayer, repentance, witness, or endurance)?

Hints for Adult Neighborhood Group Leaders

- **Keep Christ at the center:** Every question should drive people back to Jesus— His person, His finished work, and grace alone. Avoid moralism (“try harder to be awake for God”). Instead emphasize: “We don’t earn glory; we receive it because He woke us up by His Spirit.”
- **Reformed emphasis:** Highlight sovereign grace— the disciples didn’t merit the vision; God revealed it. Tie this to doctrines like effectual calling and union with Christ.
- **Baptist flavor:** Stress believer’s response—personal faith, listening/obeying the Word (“Listen to Him!”), and the priesthood of all believers (no one needs a mediator other than Christ).
- **Facilitation tips:** Start and end with prayer. If someone dominates, gently redirect to the text. For application, ask “How does this truth comfort or

challenge you personally?” rather than pressuring immediate sharing. Be ready to explain the Greek wordplay on “exodus” simply if questions arise.

- **Time management:** Aim for 45–60 minutes. Spend the most time on questions 2 and 3, as they connect directly to the gospel and daily life.

Hints for Middle and High School Sunday School Teachers

- **Make it engaging for students:** Use the hook questions to let teens share stories. Compare the Transfiguration to a “superhero revealing his true power level” or a “glitch in the Matrix” where Jesus’ hidden glory breaks through. The “volcanic eruption” image works well with this age group.
- **Simplify without watering down:** Explain Moses/Elijah as “the Law and the Prophets” by saying the Old Testament was all pointing to Jesus like arrows on a map. For the “photonegatives” contrast, draw quick side-by-side comparisons on a whiteboard or use the clothing/glory vs. stripped/naked imagery.
- **Christ-centered application:** Teens often feel pressure to perform (grades, sports, social media). Hammer home: “You don’t have to stay awake perfectly or say the right thing—Jesus reveals Himself by grace. Your job is to listen to Him.” Connect the exodus from sin to freedom from peer pressure, anxiety, porn, or people-pleasing.
- **Interactive ideas:** Have students act out the scene briefly (one as sleepy Peter). Ask: “What would you have said if you were Peter?” Then contrast with the Father’s command. Use Colossians 2:9 to discuss why Jesus is “better than” any celebrity or influencer they admire.
- **Classroom tips:** Keep energy high—move quickly between reading, questions, and short illustrations. End with a clear gospel call: Jesus died and rose so sinners like us can share in His glory. Pray specifically for students who feel enslaved to sin or spiritually asleep. For older high schoolers, briefly tie in how this glory sustains us in suffering (linking back to Luke 9:23–27).

This study guide magnifies the glory of Christ, exalts the sufficiency of His atoning work, and calls every believer to listen to the Son in humble, joyful dependence—consistent with Reformed, Christ-centered, and Baptist convictions. May the same glory that shone on the mountain shine in our hearts today through the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:6)