

Transition:

Immediately after teaching about His death and resurrection, Jesus takes His closest disciples with Him up the mountain. Perhaps we get a glimpse into a pivotal moment in Jesus' ministry.

Tell the story:

Tell the story (with passion!) Do the best you can, don't stop and teach, try not to make points, just tell the story. Perhaps leave some parts out or make a mistake, just to see if your group catches it!

Rebuild the story:

Chronologically rebuild the story by asking questions. Have the group look for what was added or left out by looking in their Bibles and going back over the story. Then have someone else tell the story the best they can – just like you modeled the first time.

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the purpose of the transfiguration? Why did Jesus not want them to tell anyone?
2. What is the link between service and son-ship? How is this related to Jesus' baptism?

Fundamental:

Identity - Prodigals and religious people are barren and without joy because they have forgotten who they are and whose they are. A great need in the body of Christ is to understand our Christian identity. This truth turns slaves into sons and moves the heart from legal obligation to loving obedience. "I will arise and go to my father's house" where He waits to receive me, clothe me and celebrate. We must understand that our heart is God's home. The Spirit expressly says in the New Testament that *we are sons*, not slaves. It's as if the Spirit wanted us to understand one important concept; that of son-ship. A servant does not abide in the house, but a son abides in the house forever.

1. Did Jesus work from His identity or for His identity?
2. How do we become sons and daughters? (Matt 5:9; John 1:12; Rom 8:15-17)
3. Should a Christian care what the world thinks about them at all? (Pro 29:25; Mark 12:14)

Homework/Challenge:

1. Memorize 10 different "In Christ" verses to establish a deeper grasp of who we are with Him.
2. Please read Matthew 18 in preparation for next week.

Discipleship Tip:

Ask your people, "How are you, really?" Not, "What did you do this week?" This is a practical way for you to communicate that you care more about who they are, not what they can do.

Prayer:

When you pray this week, refer to God as Father. Let that begin to become a habit.

Extras:

Who I Am in Christ by Neil T. Anderson