

- “The appearance of Moses and Elijah represents the Law and the Prophets, which witness to Jesus as the Messiah, the one who fulfills the [Old Testament]. Elijah was considered the prophetic forerunner of the Messiah.”¹

4. Stunned and frightened, Peter feebly attempts to make conversation (vv. 5–6). Given that Peter himself told Mark these details, why do you think he would want his impulsive comments documented for all posterity? (1 Corinthians 1:27–31)
5. What does the very voice of God reveal to the disciples? (v. 7)

Read Mark 9:9–13.

6. Jesus instructs the disciples not to tell anyone about what they have witnessed—yet. What else do they need to see and understand before they can tell others about this experience? (v. 9; John 20:9; Luke 24:45–48)
7. In verse 11, the disciples ask Jesus, “Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?” to which Jesus replies, he has come. Who is this “Elijah”? (Matthew 17:13)
8. This “mountaintop experience” brought the disciples’ understanding of the nature and mission of Jesus to a whole new level. Read 2 Peter 1:16–18 and 1 John 1:1–3. What difference does it make to your faith to have Peter’s and John’s eyewitness accounts?

Read Mark 9:14–29.

9. The crowd has been watching the disciples and teachers of the law, but now see Jesus approaching. Describe their reaction at seeing him. (v. 15)
10. Coming down from the dazzling mountaintop, Jesus, Peter, James and John reunite with the other disciples who, in comparison, are in darkness, arguing with the teachers of the law (v. 14) about healing a demon possessed boy. What is the darkness that they (and often, we) are trapped in? (v. 19a)

11. The disciples mistakenly thought they could take care of this situation on their own.
 - a. Why do you think they felt this way? (Mark 6:7, 13)
 - b. What has made them unsuccessful this time around? (v. 29)
 - c. Think of a time when you were overconfident to the point where you began to rely on your own strength and forgot about your need to depend on God. What happened as a result?
12. When Jesus says, "Everything is possible for one who believes." (v. 23), should we focus on the strength of our faith or on the object of our faith?

Why do you think it is so difficult for us to keep this straight?

13. What could the disciples—and we—learn from the father's prayer in verse 24?

Read Mark 9:30–32.

14. Review the events of this chapter. Why does Jesus want "alone time" with his disciples? (vv. 30–31)
15. Once again, Jesus predicts his death and resurrection, and once again, the disciples fail to understand (v. 32). What power has Jesus already demonstrated that could have helped them understand this at least in part? (vv. 2–3, 26–27)