Bringing it Home

1. Maybe you are facing discouragement right now. What part of your life feels heavy, negative, or is lacking in joy? What challenges are causing you to lose sight of Jesus and His love for you? Do you feel more connected or less connected to God right now?

2. In what ways can you reconnect with God and His love for you? How will intentionally moving closer to Jesus give you a fresh perspective on your life challenges? What friend/family member can you turn to today to find the encouragement you need?

I. The Message about the Transfiguration - Mark 8:38-9:1

II. The Mountain of the Transfiguration - Mark 9:2

III. The Men who Witnessed the Transfiguration - Mark 9:2; John 1:14; II Peter 1:16-18

IV. The Miracles of the Transfiguration - Mark 9:2b-4
   A. The Miracle of Christ’s Appearance - Mark 9:2b-3; Revelation 1:14
   B. The Miracle of Christ’s Associates - Mark 9:4

V. The Misunderstanding of the Transfiguration - Mark 9:5-6; Matthew 17:6-7

VI. The Meaning of the Transfiguration - Mark 9:7-10
   A. The Transfiguration is a Presentation of Christ’s Glory. - John 1:14; Matthew 17:2; Mark 9:3; Luke 9:29
   B. The Transfiguration is a Proof of Christ’s Deity. - Mark 9:7; Mark 1:11
   C. The Transfiguration is a Preview of Christ’s Suffering. - Mark 9:4; Luke 9:30-31
   D. The Transfiguration is a Picture of Christ’s Exclusivity. - Mark 9:8
   E. The Transfiguration is a Promise of Christ’s Victory.
Small Group Questions

Getting Started
1. Describe someone who encourages you in your life. How does this person prove that they believe in you and your God-given value, calling, or mission? What makes their encouragement weightier than that of other people?

2. When have you felt encouraged by God? Maybe this happened at a Christian camp, a church retreat, or a more private and personal time. When have you felt an amazing moment of realization that God loves you and that nothing can take that love away from you?

Digging Deeper

1. Pastor Jeremiah said that Jesus “…wanted to encourage [His disciples] with a brief glimpse into the glorious future that awaited them.” What if you had been there that day? How would you have reacted to seeing Jesus’ glory revealed? How might this experience have encouraged you?

2. You could say that Peter, James, and John had a “mountaintop” experience with Jesus. What do mountaintop experiences do for us? How do they refill our hearts, strengthen our resolve, and give us fresh focus to keep moving forward in faith?

3. Let’s look at a few Biblical mountaintop stories. What was significant about each of these incidents? How did these events impact, encourage, or change the person/people in the story? What life lesson can we take away from each story?

   Genesis 8:3-4; 15-22

   Genesis 22:9-18

   Exodus 33:18-23; 34:29-34

   I Kings 19:11-18

   Matthew 5:1-10; 7:28

4. How does God encourage you? Do you notice His encouragement before or after a life challenge? What are the best ways for you to connect with His encouragement for you (worship, Bible study, community/fellowship or maybe a combination of things)?

5. Often God uses people to encourage us. Describe a time when someone’s unconditional approval and encouragement transformed your fear into resolve. When did the compassion and love of another person help you deal with your suffering?