

## Adult Bible Study: Mark 9

Theme: *Seeing Jesus clearly and responding faithfully*

### 1. The Transfiguration (Mark 9:2–13) “Seeing Glory Clearly”

#### Key Insight:

- “Transfigured” = Greek *μετεμορφώθη* (*metemorphōthē*) → transformed, revealing true nature (not a change, but an unveiling).

#### Read the passage together

#### Discussion Questions:

- What stands out to you about this moment on the mountain?
- Why do you think Jesus chose only Peter, James, and John?
- What is the significance of Moses and Elijah appearing with Jesus?
- Peter wants to build shelters; what does that reveal about his understanding (or misunderstanding)?
- God says, “This is my beloved Son; listen to Him.” What does it mean practically to *listen* to Jesus today?

#### Deeper Reflection:

- Where might we be tempted to “stay on the mountain” instead of following Jesus back into real life?

### 2. The Demon-Possessed Boy (Mark 9:14–29) “Faith in the Valley”

#### Key Insight:

- “I believe; help my unbelief!” (v.24) captures the tension of real faith.
- “Faith” = Greek *πίστις* (*pistis*) → trust, reliance, not just intellectual belief.

#### Discussion Questions:

- What contrasts do you see between the mountain (glory) and the valley (struggle)?
- Why couldn’t the disciples cast out the demon?
- What do you make of the father’s statement: “I believe; help my unbelief”?
- How does Jesus respond to imperfect faith?
- Jesus says this kind comes out only by prayer what does that teach about dependence on God?

#### Application:

- Where in your life do you feel this tension between belief and doubt?

### 3. Jesus Predicts His Death Again (Mark 9:30–32) “Misunderstood Mission”

#### Discussion Questions:

- Why were the disciples afraid to ask Jesus what He meant?
- What does this reveal about their expectations of the Messiah?
- How do people today misunderstand who Jesus is or what He came to do?

### 4. Who Is the Greatest? (Mark 9:33–37) “Redefining Greatness”

#### Key Insight:

- “Servant” = Greek *διάκονος* (*diakonos*) → one who waits on others.

#### Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think the disciples argued about greatness right after Jesus spoke about His death?
- How does Jesus redefine greatness?
- Why does Jesus use a child as an example?
- What does it look like to “receive” someone insignificant in Jesus’ name?

**Challenge:**

- In what ways do we still measure greatness incorrectly (even in church life)?

**5. “Whoever Is Not Against Us...” (Mark 9:38–41) “Kingdom Inclusion”**

**Discussion Questions:**

- Why did John want to stop the man casting out demons?
- What does Jesus’ response teach about exclusivity and unity?
- How do we discern between genuine ministry and error today?

**6. Warnings About Sin (Mark 9:42–50) “Radical Holiness”**

**Key Insight:**

- Hyperbolic language (cutting off hand, etc.) emphasizes seriousness of sin.
- “Gehenna” refers to a place associated with judgment.
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**Discussion Questions:**

- What does Jesus mean by causing “little ones” to stumble?
- Why does Jesus use such strong, even shocking imagery?
- What steps can we take to deal seriously with sin in our lives?
- “Have salt in yourselves” what do you think that means?