

Matthew: He Was Still Speaking

Discussion Guide for May 2 and 3, 2026

Summary

In Matthew 16:28–17:13, three of Jesus' closest friends get a glimpse of something they were never meant to forget – who Jesus really is. On a mountaintop, His glory breaks through, Moses and Elijah appear, and the voice of God cuts through the moment: "This is my beloved Son. Listen to Him." It's a stunning scene. And right in the middle of it, Peter does what a lot of us do – he tries to manage it, contain it, build something around it. This passage invites us to do something harder and better: keep our eyes on Jesus, loosen our grip on control, and trust Him even in the places that hurt.

Ice Breaker

Think about a time you tried really hard to hold onto something – a season, a relationship, a plan – and it slipped away anyway. Looking back, what did you learn from having to let go?

Key Verses

1. Matthew 16:28–17:13
2. Exodus 34:29–35
3. Malachi 4:5–6
4. Philippians 3:10

Discussion Questions

1. When God shows up in a big way, Peter's instinct was to start building. What's your instinct when something feels significant – do you try to hold onto it, control it, or just be in it?
2. What tends to quietly crowd Jesus out in your everyday life?
3. Craig Groeschel said, "What you attempt to control the most often reveals where you trust God the least." What's one area where you recognize that in yourself?
4. What's a limitation you've been frustrated by that might actually be an invitation from God?
5. "Suffering is not a glitch in the Christian life. It's part of the very fabric of it." Does that feel like a hard truth, a relief, or both – and why?
6. After the mountaintop, Jesus walked straight back into hard, ordinary life with His disciples. What does following Him back down the mountain look like for you this week?

Life Application

Fix your eyes on Jesus – Where has something or someone else been getting the attention that belongs to Jesus? Do one concrete thing to reorient this week.

Loosen your grip – Name the thing you've been white-knuckling. Write it down, pray over it, and tell someone in your group what it is.

Walk back down the mountain – Think of someone in your life who is suffering. Don't try to fix it. Just show up and be present.

Key Takeaways

- 1.** Jesus isn't one important figure among many – He is the fulfillment of everything that came before Him. Moses and Elijah point to Him.
- 2.** Our instinct to control reveals where we haven't yet learned to trust. God is patient with us there, but He keeps inviting us to open our hands.
- 3.** Limitations aren't obstacles to a good life. In God's economy, they're often the very thing He uses to build one.
- 4.** Suffering isn't a sign that God has abandoned you or that something has gone wrong. It's part of what it means to follow a Savior who suffered.
- 5.** Jesus doesn't stay on the mountain. He walks back down with us – into the mess, the confusion, and the everyday. So do we.