



THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Life Group
Discussion
Guide

Week 3

3/8/2026

Sermon Summary: In this week's message, Pastor Tara Beth reflects on the Transfiguration in Mark's Gospel as part of the "Way of the Cross" teachings (Mark 8–11). After revealing that he must suffer and die, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up the mountain where his divine glory is revealed in dazzling light alongside Moses and Elijah. This moment confirms that Jesus is not just another prophet but the fulfillment of God's promises, and the voice from heaven calls the disciples to "listen to him." Yet this glimpse of glory comes in the middle of Jesus' teaching that the Messiah, and all who follow him, must walk the path of the cross before resurrection. The Transfiguration reminds us that suffering is not the end of the story but part of the journey toward glory. As followers of Jesus, we are called to live in this same pattern of "resurrectional cruciformity". A life poured out in humility, trusting that God's glory and restoration are coming.

Conversation Starter: The disciples wanted to stay on the mountain during the Transfiguration and avoid the suffering Jesus talked about. Why do you think people, including us, tend to prefer the mountaintop moments over the harder parts of faith?

Prayer: Lord Jesus,

As we gather today, quiet our hearts and open our ears to hear your voice. Help us to listen to you. Not only in moments of glory, but also in the difficult places where we carry our crosses. Shape us into people who trust your path and follow you faithfully.

Amen.

Read Scripture together: Mark 9: 2-13

3-Question Study Method

Use this method to understand the passage.

1. What is the passage about?
2. What do I learn about God?
3. What is the lesson I learn that I can apply to my life?

Discussion Questions:

- Jesus had just begun teaching that the Messiah must suffer and that his followers must take up their cross (Mark 8:31–34). Why do you think the Transfiguration happens right in the middle of these “Way of the Cross” teachings?
- When the cloud appears, the voice from heaven says, “This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.” Why do you think the disciples needed to hear this command in this moment?
- The disciples expected a conquering king, but Jesus keeps describing a suffering Messiah. What does this passage reveal about the kind of kingdom Jesus came to bring?
- The sermon described Jesus’ path as suffering before glory. What one theologian calls “resurrectional cruciformity.” Where do you see this pattern in the life of Jesus or in the broader story of Scripture?
- Peter wanted to stay on the mountain and avoid the suffering Jesus had been talking about. Why do you think we often prefer a faith focused on victory and blessing rather than sacrifice and surrender?
- Jesus says that anyone who follows him must take up their cross. What might this look like in ordinary life (at work, in relationships, or in difficult seasons)?
- The Transfiguration gives the disciples a glimpse of Jesus’ glory before the cross. How can moments like this strengthen our faith when we face suffering or uncertainty?
- Deeper Dive: In the Transfiguration, Jesus’ divine glory is revealed, yet immediately afterward he continues on the path toward suffering and the cross. What does this teach us about the relationship between God’s glory and suffering in the kingdom of God?
 - Read Phillipians 2:6-11

Memory Verse: Mark 9:7 (NIV) Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

Closing Prayer: Gracious God, Thank you for meeting us in both the mountaintops and the valleys of life. Give us the courage to follow Jesus in humility and faith, even when the path is difficult. Remind us that suffering is not the end of the story and that your resurrection hope is always ahead. Amen.