

## Bible chat week starting 19 2 23

Matthew 17: 1 - 9

*After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. 2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. 3 Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.*

*4 Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.'*

*5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!'*

*6 When the disciples heard this, they fell face down to the ground, terrified. 7 But Jesus came and touched them. 'Get up,' he said. 'Don't be afraid.' 8 When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.*

*9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, 'Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'*

1. Share an experience you may have had on a mountain.
2. Discuss some reasons why mountains are seen as spiritual places.
3. Notice what the gospel has revealed about Jesus at the end of the previous chapter. Reflect on the contrast between 16: 21 - 28 and the story we have here. Why is the transfiguration story so significant, then?
4. List all the extraordinary things that happen on the mountain in this story. What does each one tell us about Jesus?
5. Putting all these things together, what does this story tell us about Jesus?
6. Do you find it easier to accept Jesus' divinity or Jesus' humanity?
7. How might this story help our church to have confidence in shaping a future?