

## Meeting God

Today is known as Transfiguration Sunday. It is a day when we look at what happened when Jesus took Peter, James and John up to the mountain to pray.

In the Bible, mountains are often the places where people experience more vividly the presence of God as well as receiving instruction and encouragement for their God given mission. We see Noah in Genesis 8; Abraham in Genesis 22; Moses in Exodus 3; Elijah in 1 Kings 19 all having mountain top experiences of God.

For these, the mountain top experiences was to equip them to be leaders of God's people in the ordinary places of life. The mountain was the place where God gave instructions and encouragement and then sent them back into the world. It was there on the mountain they received what they needed to fulfill God's plan.

Then in Matthew 17 we read that Jesus took 3 of his closest friends up the mountain to pray and right before their very eyes, the Jesus they knew as a friend and teacher, was transformed and the disciples saw very clearly who he was.

Like all those who have encountered God on the mountain tops before them, this experience also had a profound impact on these 3 disciples.

Through this experience Peter, James and John were given the assurance of God's presence with them so that they could fulfill their God given mission in leading the early church.

Like all those who have met God on the mountains, like those disciples with Jesus, and countless other Christians through the centuries who have experienced God in a new way, we too need mountain top experiences of God's love and power, to help us to live in the world below.

One day many centuries ago, 3 men accompanied Jesus up a mountain and there they experienced the presence of God in a very real way that changed their lives.

Likewise, may we too, experience God in new and surprising ways