

TAKING WORSHIP INTO YOUR WEEK



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When your vision is cloudy, you're hesitant, because you don't want to bump into things; you're confused, because you don't know where you are. Cloudy vision means little progress, and a lot of frustration. Three disciples found themselves in a cloud, hesitant, confused, and frustrated. . . until they heard the voice of God. The path they were to take wasn't exactly clear, but they knew that if they followed Jesus, they'd find their way. Get set for Transfiguration Sunday, and a less cloudy atmosphere.

1. Read Mark 1:2-9, and in your concordance, find the word "cloud." What are your top three most familiar accounts in the scriptures which feature a cloud? What, do you find, is the purpose of every cloud on each occasion?
 2. Consult the notes of your study Bible, on paper or online, concerning vs. 4. There are various interpretations of why it was Elijah, and why Moses, who appeared with Jesus; what does your study Bible say? If you don't have a study Bible, this would be a good time to order or download one; I recommend an NIV study Bible.
 3. The Transfiguration of our Lord is included in all three synoptic (look it up) Gospels; why might that be? Read Mark's account again, then Luke 9:28-36 and Matthew 17:1-13. What are some interesting details found in one or two of the accounts that are not found in the other, or others? Why do you think the Holy Spirit led the gospel writers to write about the same account with differing details? For that matter, look through the resurrection accounts in Mt. 28:1-8; Mark 16:9-14; Luke 24:1-10, and John 20:1-18. Find the interesting variations of the resurrection account; what purpose might God have for sharing differing (but not conflicting) accounts with us?
 4. Read again Mark 9:5. How does the "shelters" Peter speaks of relate to the "Festival of Booths?" Consult the Study Bible when it arrives in the mail, or if you've downloaded it, you're all set.
 5. Ask yourself who in your life needs the presence of Jesus, pray, and connect – call, text, email, drive – with that person to be the presence of Jesus with them, just as the disciples on the mountain experienced.
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