

Bible Journaling Notes for Lent 2: Mark 9:2-9 Jesus' Transfiguration



You may want to start by thinking about the image of the 'high mountain' (verse 2). Here in Scotland we are surrounded by high mountains – you may have been up on top of one yourself with a small group of friends as Jesus, Peter, James and John were in this story.

You could start by putting images of mountains on your page – draw or paint them, cut them out of leaflets or magazines, and add any words that occur to you. I'm thinking 'remote, beautiful, awe-inspiring...' Your list might be similar or very different, depending on your experience.

You may want to look at some of the following verses about mountains and add any insights to your page:

- Mark 6:46
- Isaiah 40:9
- Psalm 121
- Isaiah 52:7.

You may want to start a new page as you read on through the passage in Mark 9:2-9.

What jumps out at you?



You might notice some of the following:

- The striking images in this passage
Jesus is suddenly dressed in dazzling white; 2 ancient figures appear out of nowhere; everyone is engulfed in cloud; a voice from heaven speaks.
- Peter's babbling response, borne out of fear
Understandably, Peter is frightened and chooses immediate action as a coping strategy in the face of these bizarre happenings – but the challenge here is to stay in the moment and see how it unfolds.
- Parallels with Jesus' baptism
We looked at the baptism last week: the voice from heaven; the affirming words of God; the authority given to Jesus.
- God's imperative
"Listen to him".

You can take each of these aspects in turn and decorate a page on which to write your reflections. Or you can choose the one which stands out for you the most and journal around it. Try a colour wash as suggested in the Technique Tip, and while you are applying the paint, pray for insights that you can then write about or represent pictorially. You can follow some of the bullet points from last week if you need some guidance on how to get going.

I was particularly struck by God's instruction to Peter and the other disciples: 'Listen to him'! It's so easy to jump into action and yet listening is more important. Making time for a quiet, prayerful, creative journaling session helps us listen.