

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

March 16-17

“Coming Into One’s Own”

By Rev. Kelly Archer

What Is This?

This brief guide is intended for use individually, or in small groups. It’s your chance to dive deeper into the issues raised in the weekend sermon and to connect a Biblical story with your daily life.

Revisit the Text: Luke 9:28-36

Big Ideas Raised

- The Transfiguration of Christ is revisited annually by churches/denominations that follow the Revised Common Lectionary. That’s as often as we revisit Christ’s birth in the manger and his death on the cross. It is found in all three Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) as well in a letter of Peter’s.
- Throughout the Bible we read of mountain top experiences wherein humans encounter the Divine. You can read about Abraham’s mountain top experience in Genesis 22, Moses’ in Exodus 20, and Elijah’s in 1 King 18
- Jesus begins to glow when he is engaged in prayer. Prayer is the conduit, for Christ, into communion with God and with those souls that had gone before, the prophets Moses and Elijah. It was while praying that Christ’s appearance changed and his face and clothes became dazzling white. It was a sight so glorious it has been called one of Christ’s miracles.

Questions Meant to Dig Deeper

- How is prayer a part of your faith life? Does it serve as a point of connection between you and God, and even those souls that have gone before you? Can you recall a time when praying made you feel so close to God that you were filled with God’s light?
- Have you had a mountain top experience? No mountain necessary. In the Celtic tradition, there is this notion of “thin places” – places where the distance between heaven and earth is decreased. For some people, their church sanctuary can be a “thin place” where they can feel the presence of God come close. For others, the feeling occurs at the sea shore or while looking out over a vast canyon. Can you recall such a feeling from your own life/travels?
- Given we revisit this story every year, how is reading the story of Christ’s Transfiguration speaking to you today? Are there details or participants from the story that are significant to you in your life right now?

Revisit the Sermon

For a recording or a manuscript of this weekend’s sermon, please visit:

<https://www.stlucasucc.org/sermons-resources>