

## **Crosswalk Communities Discussion Guides**

### **June 5th**

#### **Icebreaker Questions (Pick at the least one question, but use as many as your group feels comfortable)**

1. What was your favorite cartoon character from childhood? What did you like about them?

#### **Bible Study Questions**

1. Read Matthew 17:1-13.
  - What do you notice about the story? What observations do you have about Jesus? What message was Jesus teaching his disciples by having them witness his transfiguration?
  - How would you have reacted if you had been the disciples there witnessing the transfiguration.
2. Previously, Jesus had started telling the disciples about his upcoming suffering and death. Peter had reacted by telling Jesus that it would never happen. Why were they so bothered by Jesus sharing this? What do you imagine the conversations among the disciples to have been like in the following days?
  - What messages from Jesus tend to bother you? Are there any that you tend to disregard?
3. Our minds are constantly filled with voices trying to win the battle for our hearts. What are some of the most dominant messages that you see in our society? Are there any messages that you find in Christian circles that don't line up with Jesus' teachings?
4. How do we get better discernment with what we put into our minds? How do we help our kids make better decisions in that area?
  - Read Philippians 4:8. How does this help?
  - Are there any voices that you need to either cut back on or cut out of your life?

5. What practices do you currently have to immerse yourself in Jesus? Are there any practices that you need to start? How do you make that happen?

## June 5<sup>th</sup>: Summer with Jesus: Listen Up!

The context behind Matthew 17 is that Jesus has started to talk with his disciples about his upcoming death. Peter has declared that he won't allow it to happen and the disciples are shrugging it off as crazy talk. It is in this context that Jesus takes three of his disciples for a special hike up a mountain.

### I. Message to the disciples

- a. **Jesus had the approval of the Father:** In 17:5, God tells them that “*This is my Son, whom I love. With him I am well pleased.*” Jesus was not just giving crazy talk. His plans had the stamp of approval of the Father himself.
- b. **Listen to the Son:** In 17:5, God follows up with the command, “*Listen to him.*” Stop disregarding his message. They were to lay their agenda aside and trust what Jesus was saying.

### II. Why we struggle

- a. **Oversaturation of influential voices:** We live in a time in which we are constantly be saturated with different voices, many declaring messages that are contrary to God. We have messages about sexuality, marriage, and materialism. Perhaps one of the strongest voices is our own corrupt and self centered nature. Even in Christianity, we have numerous voices with different messages. It can be very hard to discern what voices to listen to.
- b. **Lack of knowledge about the voice Jesus:** We live in a Biblically illiterate era. Studies have shown a majority of Christians have limited knowledge of Jesus and what they know is the result of a weekly visit to the church. The result is that other media voices have much more dominant influence over what they believe.

### III. The answer

- a. **Practice media discernment:** A wise practice is to consider what messengers most often influence your mind. Not all messages should be consumed. There may be some voices that need to be silenced or diminished. Teach your children how to discern media messages.
- b. **Immerse your mind in Jesus:** Develop practices such as Bible reading or involvement in a Christian community that help to bring Jesus to the forefront of your mind.

There are many voices competing for our attention. Only one voice though has the complete approval of the Father. Only one voice loved us enough to come to earth and sacrifice himself on our behalf. He is worth listening to.