

# THE SURPRISING JESUS

Studies in the Book of Mark

~Week Ten~  
“A Mountain-Top Experience”  
Mark 9:2-13



Life Groups

**A reminder...** This weekly Bible study is connected to the Sunday sermons at UPC. It includes a “Look Back” section to help you reflect on last Sunday’s sermon, and a “Look Up” section to take you through the NEXT passage in the book of Mark. If you miss a sermon, you can always listen to it online at [www.upc-orlando.com](http://www.upc-orlando.com).

## LOOK BACK – Mark 8:31-9:1

With this passage of Scripture we turn a significant corner in Mark’s gospel. Until now Mark has focused primarily on Jesus’ miracles to establish His identity and define His mission. Now that Peter has made his confession of Jesus as the Christ (Mark 8:29), Mark shifts his focus to Jesus’ call to radical discipleship. From this point forward you will see an emphasis on the cross as Jesus’ destiny...and our destiny too.

a) Why do you think Jesus began at this point to tell His disciples about His upcoming sufferings and death? (8:31-32)

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b) What motivated Peter to rebuke Jesus (8:32)?

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c) Peter had “things of men” on his mind, rather than “things of God” (8:33). Can you think of ways we do the same thing today? What about *you*?

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d) What would it look like for you to “deny yourself” (8:34)?

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e) What was Jesus alluding to in 9:1?

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## LOOK UP – Mark 9:2-13

The story of the Transfiguration (a word that means “transformation,” as in Romans 12:2) graphically reveals the glory of Christ and His authority as the messenger of the new covenant. Because Jesus knew what lay ahead for both Himself and His followers, He wanted to be sure they knew who He really was...God in the flesh!

### Mark 9:2-4 – A Stupendous Sight

- a) Why do you think Jesus didn't take *all* the disciples up the mountain? Do you remember any other times when Jesus revealed something only to Peter, James, and John? (Hint: see Mark 5:37, 14:33)

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- b) Who else in the Bible met God on a high mountain? (Hint: see Genesis 22, Exodus 24, 1 Kings 19)

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- c) What reasons do you suppose Jesus had for revealing Himself so gloriously to His disciples?

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- d) Why were Elijah and Moses talking with Jesus on the mountain? (Hint: think of Elijah as representative of the Prophets and Moses as representative of the Law.)

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### Mark 9:5-6 – A Stupid Reaction

- a) Peter, typically impulsive, blurts out his desire to protect Jesus, Moses, and Elijah or perhaps to prolong the vision he was seeing. His fear overcame his capacity to worship. Can you think of times you've succumbed to the same thing?

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### Mark 9:7-13 – A Stunning Lesson

- a) What was God communicating by telling Peter, James, and John, “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to Him!” (vs. 7)?

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b) Long before this, God had promised that a prophet like Moses would come to deliver His people from their sin (Deuteronomy 18:15). Read Deuteronomy 18:14-22. How does the story of the Transfiguration show that Jesus is that promised prophet?

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c) Why did Jesus tell his three disciples not to share with others what they had witnessed (vs. 9)?

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d) Who was Jesus referring to in vs. 13? (Hint: see Mark 6:14-29)

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### **LOOK IN – Reflect**

a) What do you suppose Elijah, Moses, and Jesus were talking about on the mountain (vs. 4)?

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b) Peter's statement in vs. 5 ("It is good for us to be here") shows how easy it is for us to think we are indispensable. In what ways have you thought it's all about you, instead of the glory of God?

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### **LOOK OUT – Apply**

This is a great story of worship. Peter, James, and John saw Jesus for who He really is. Sometime before next Sunday, pray that we at UPC will be a truly worshiping community. Ask God to show us His glory more and more, and that we will be "transfigured" as we catch a glimpse of the glory of Jesus Christ.