
Matthew Chapter 17

☐ 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Have you ever witnessed supernatural activity of any kind? Describe what happened in as much detail as you can remember.

- b. What is your favorite miracle story in the Bible? Tell the story in your own words or read it out loud. Why is this your favorite?

☐ 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

So far in the book of Matthew, Jesus' disciples have seen lots of miracles. There are miracles of healing and feeding people and raising people from the dead and calming storms and casting out demons, etc. Even when Moses and Elijah appeared to Jesus in this chapter Peter, James and John were excited and wanted to build some little shelters for them. What is interesting is that when God spoke, these same disciples were suddenly terrified and Jesus had to tell them not to be afraid and He also told them not to tell anyone what they had seen until He was raised from the dead? Why do you think that is?

Do you think you would be terrified if you heard God's voice today? Why/why not? Can you think of another time when God's voice was heard in Bible times and people were afraid? Can you think of a time in the Bible where someone heard God's voice and was not afraid? What do you think makes the difference?

(Hint: see Exodus 20:18-20 for one example)

Do you think Peter, James and John ever forgot this experience? Why/why not?

What is your most memorable experience of seeing or hearing God in action? Was it scary or comforting or something else? Explain.

What do you think is the best way to put yourself in a position to see and hear God's miracle working power?

Do you think you would be more likely to see God's power on a mission trip or sitting at home watching TV? Explain.

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Choose one or two:

- a. Think of the times in your life when you have seen God's power and noticed His activity around you? What else was going on in your life at that time? How involved were you with church and how was your devotional life?

- b. Think of the times in your life when you did not see God's power and activity around you for a while. What else was going on in your life at that time? How involved were you with church and how was your devotional life? Do you think there is a connection or relationship between how your spiritual life is going and weather or not you see God working in and around you? Explain.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

It is normal to have ups and downs in your spiritual life but we obviously want more up times than down. Pray and ask Jesus to help you draw close to Him now, at this time, and ask Him to help you to be close to Him and to see and feel Him in and around you working in this world.