



LIVE the **WORD**

IT'S EVERYTHING!

SMALL GROUP LEADER

Mountain

Mountain

SCRIPTURE READING: ????

Group leaders should:

- "Set the table" for interaction and group discussion by (4 minutes):
 - explaining the idea of the week's theme
 - explaining the context of the main passage(s) to be discussed
- **Debrief from weekly reading (8-10 minutes)**
- *Facilitating, Discipling, Guiding, Shepherding* **(30 minutes)**

Small Group Questions:

1. Mountains are significant spiritual places throughout the Bible. Can you name 5 or more times where a mountain played an important part of the biblical story? What part did the mountain play in each of those stories?
2. Which of these stories is most important to you? Why?
3. What transformative spiritual works happens on "the mountain of the LORD?" Which of these do you need most in your life today?
4. What would it look like for you to ascend "the mountain of the LORD" this week?

SET THE TABLE

Micah 4:2 compels us, “Come, and let us go up the mountain of the Lord.” Don’t miss the mountains in the Bible! Mountains are where God comes down to man. Mountains are where men go up to find God.

Mountains teach us much about God’s redemptive plan, His presence, His power, His purpose for His people, and His future promise.

Mountains are places God reveals his glory. God reveals himself and speaks in powerful ways on mountain tops.

Mountains are places where men meet with God. They are places of prayer and spiritual rest.

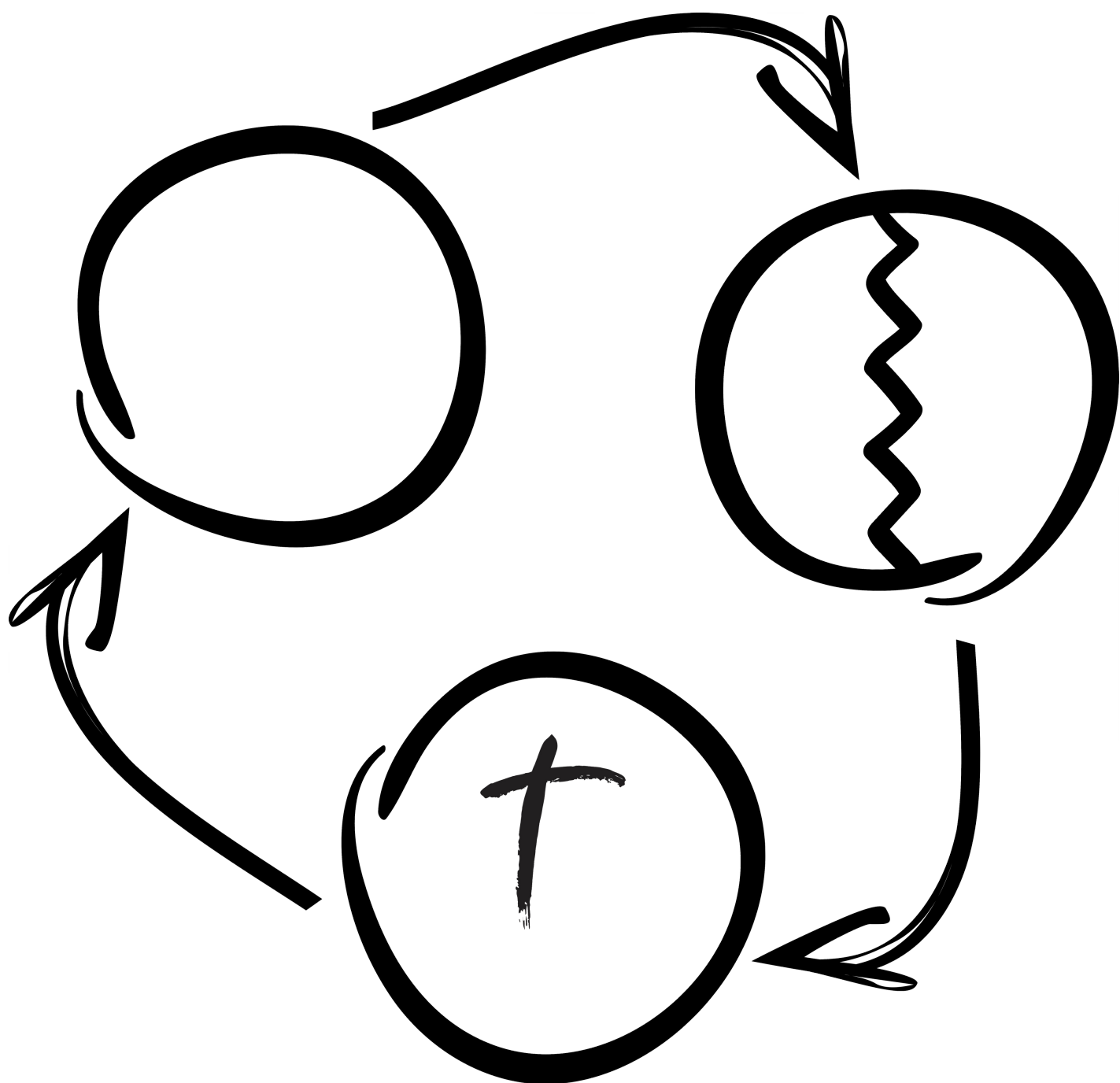
Mountains are places of spiritual warfare and spiritual victory. They instruct us in the spiritual battles we face.

Mountains are places of sacrifice and atonement. They are places of God’s grace, mercy, and provision of salvation through the substitutionary death of Jesus.

Mountains are places of missions. Acts 1:8 and the Great Commission are both spoken by Jesus from the mountain.

Mountains are places of discipleship. Jesus teaches on mountains and works miracles on mountains.

Mountains are places of hope. The holy city, New Jerusalem descends from heaven to the top of a mountain.



Mountain - Commentary

Mountains are important from the beginning to the end of the Bible. In the Old Testament mountains stand out as places God revealed Himself and when men had life transforming encounters with God. Mountains were prominent in the life and ministry of Jesus. In fact, His mission can be illustrated on mountain tops. The Bible ends on top of a mountains.

Mountains in the Old Testament

Eden—The Mountain in Creation, Ezekiel 28:13-1; Genesis 2:10-14

The prophet Ezekiel called Eden “the garden of God.” And he locates Eden on “the holy mountain of God.” Genesis 2 passage points to the elevated location of the Garden of Eden on a mountain by the fact that a river flowed out Eden, water travels downward, before dividing into four rivers.

Eden on a mountain represents the intersection between Heaven and earth. God walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden. After the fall they were driven out of Eden and down on the earth below where Satan is the god of the world.

Mt. Moriah—The Mountain of Substitution, Genesis 22

In a test of Abraham’s faith, God commanded him to take the son of promise, Issac, and offering him as a sacrifice. As they ascended the mountain Issac asked, “The fire and the wood, but where is the lamb?” Abraham replied, “God will provide for himself the lamb.” When Abraham was prepared to offer his son, God stopped him, saying, “Now I know you fear me.” The Lord provided a ram to die in the place of Issac. Abraham named the mountain, “The LORD will provide.” It is a powerful picture of God giving His Son, the Lamb, to die in our place.

Mt. Sinai—The Mountain of God’s Glory, Exodus 19 & 34

After their redemption from Egypt, the people of Israel came to Mt. Sinai. There on the mountain God reveal His glory in a thick cloud and thunders and lighting. The people saw the glory but could not approach it or touch the base of the mountain lest they die. When Moses went up on the Mt. Sinai the LORD gave him the law to instruct Israel in holiness. And He gave Moses the instructions for building the Tabernacle of the LORD’s presence.

Mountain - Commentary

Mt. Moriah—The Mountain of the Temple, 2 Chronicles 3:1

The temple was built on the highest point in Jerusalem. It stood above everything in the city of God. The presence of the LORD was to be central in the life of Israel. The temple was the presence of the LORD in the midst of His people as His glory dwelt in the Holy of Holies. There the people worshiped, offered sacrifices for atonement, pray, and hear the Word of God. The temple was often referred to as “the LORD’s holy mountain” or “the hill of the Lord,” (Psalm 24:3-6; Psalm 48:1; Micah 4:2).

Mt Carmel—The Mountain of Spiritual Warfare, 1 Kings 18:20-40

Israel had been led into idolatry, the worship of Baal, by Ahab and Jezebel. Ahab called all of Israel to Mt. Carmel for a Baal festival. Elijah showed up and challenged the priest of Baal. The priest of Baal and Elijah would both make an altar of wood and offer two bulls. If Baal answered and consumed the offering of his priest, he would be God. If the LORD consumed Elijah’s offering, then all the people would know that He is God alone. It was a spiritual battle for the soul of Israel. The priest of Baal cried out and cut themselves. But of course, there was no answer. Elijah, in demonstration of great faith, saturated his offering with water. When he prayed, the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the offering. The people fell on their faces and cried out, “The LORD He is God.” And the priests of Baal were slain.

Jesus and Mountains

The Mountain of Temptation—Spiritual Warfare, Matthew 4:8-11

After His baptism, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness where He was faced for three intense temptations from the enemy, Satan. In the third temptation, the devil took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Jesus the kingdoms of the world and their glory. He offered them to Jesus if the Lord would worship him. As with the other temptations, Jesus answered with the Word of God, “it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.” Then the Satan left Him. The sword of the Spirit, the Word of God is essential to victory in spiritual warfare.

Mountain - Commentary

The Sermon on the Mount—The Mountain of Discipleship, Matthew 5-7

Seeing the crowds coming out to Him, Jesus went on a mountain and disciples came to Him. Jesus taught the disciples with the crowd overhearing. The Sermon on the Mount Jesus taught what it means to be His disciple. It is all about an inner transformation that leads to walking in newness of life. The sermon demonstrates the authority of Jesus as teacher. It is meant for those who know, abide in, and follow Jesus.

The Mountain of Prayer—The Mountain of Rest, Matthew 14:23

Why did Jesus place such a priority on praying? He is God of very God after all . But in the incarnation, He is also man of very man. So, often after a long day of ministry Jesus would go to a mountain alone to pray. There alone with the Father was a place of spiritual rest and refreshment for Him. After observing the prayer life of Jesus, it is no wonder in Luke 11:1 the disciples asked Him, “Lord, teach us to pray.” If time alone with the Father on the mountain was important to Jesus, then it is much more important is it for us.

The Mountain of Prayer—The Mountain of Decision, Luke 6:12-16

Before Jesus chosen the twelve apostles, He spent the entire night before on a mountain praying. There is no way to overemphasis the critical importance of the decision He was making. He would disciple these men, pouring into them. He would tell them that they would do the works He did and greater works in taking the gospel to the world. So, He spent the night in prayer because His passion was to the will of the Father.

Too often people make decisions based on “I think” or “If feel like this is what I ought to do.” Proverbs 4:12 warns us, “There is a way that seen right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” Only the purposes of the Lord stand forever. Learning from Jesus, we need to spend much time in prayer about the decisions of life. That’s the only way to do the will of God to the glory of God.

The Mountain of Healing—The Mountain of Ministry, Matthew 15:29-31

Jesus went up on mountain and the crowds brought all manner of sick to the feet of Jesus. When the Lord in compassionate ministry healed them making the mute to speak, lame to walk, and blind to see the crowds gave glory to God. We are to be involved in compassions ministries to the hurting. But compassion ministries are not an end to themselves. In Matthew 15:32-38 the crowds spend all day listening to Jesus. And he performs the miracle of the feeding of the four thousand.

Mountain - Commentary

The Mountain of Transfiguration—The Mountain of the Glory of Jesus, Matthew 17:1

Jesus is God, the eternal Son. But in the incarnation His glory was hidden as He took upon Himself the form of a servant and the form of man. He took Peter, James, and John with Him to the top of a mountain. There His glory broke through humanity as His face shone and his garments became white with radiant light. Moses and Elijah appeared beside Him. Both of them had glorious mountain top experiences during their lives. Then, the Father spoke from Heaven, “This is my beloved Son, hear him.” In fear, the three disciples fell on their faces on the ground. When they rose, they say Jesus only. When Jesus came down from the mountain and cast a powerful demon out of a young man.

Mt. of Olives—The Mountain of Suffering and the Cross, Matthew 26:36-46; Luke 22:39-46

On the evening before the crucifixion, Jesus led the disciples from the upper room to the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mt. of Olives. He took Peter, James, and John into the Garden and asked them to watch with Him in prayer. Then He went deeper in the Garden and prayed sorrowfully for He knew that His death on the Cross was just hours away. Falling on His face, His humanity cried out, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” It was such an intense time of prayer that His sweat fell to the ground like drops of blood. Three times Jesus prayed like this only to find the three disciples sleeping each time. When Jesus left the Gethsemane he was arrested by the temple guards and the trails started that would end with Him dying on the Cross at 9:00 am the next day.

When you face hard times, how do you react? Throw up your hands and quit? Try to solve it yourself? Or do you go to the Father with earnest and agonizing prayer?

The Mountain of the Great Commission—The Mountain of Missions, Matthew 28:16-20, Act 1:8

The resurrected Jesus directed the 11 disciples to meet Him on a mountain in Galilee. It was on a mountain the Satan showed Jesus the kingdoms on earth. It is on a mountain that the Lord Jesus states that He is the ultimate authority in Heaven and earth and commanded His follower to make disciples in every nation, in every people group. And it was one a mountain, the Mt. of Olives that Jesus commanded the disciples to be His witness in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Mountain - Commentary

Mt. of Olives—the Mountain of Ascension, Acts 1:9-11

The scene on the Mt. of Olives is riveting. After giving the command of Acts:1:8, Jesus was carried up in a cloud. He ascended to Heaven to be seated, enthroned, at the right hand of the Father. There Jesus intercedes for us. The angels assure us that just like He ascended, so He will come again. Even so come Lord Jesus!

Mountain in the Future

In Revelations 21:9-10 as John saw the new heavens and the new earth, and angel invited John to come see the Bride of Christ. The angel carried John to a high mountain, and he saw the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven radiated by the glory of God to rest on the mountain top.

Mountain—where God comes down to meet men and when men go up to find God. Often, we get so bogged down here on earth below. The Lord invites us to come up on the mountain.