



Depending on how you are participating in FaithGroups (individually, with another person, with your family, or with a group) you may want to adapt this guide. Here we propose some discussion questions to generate a dialogue between participants. They are not a 'checklist' to get through, but rather suggestions for conversation. Let the Holy Spirit guide your conversation as well.

We suggest that you begin and end with prayer, and that you read the readings, especially the Gospel, which we have attached on page 2. If you are doing this as a group, we advise choosing a facilitator, and we strongly suggest finishing with prayers of intercession for individuals and situations that may have been mentioned in the group. And of course, we would like for your group to affirm that discussion will remain confidential.

After an opening prayer, introductions if you are in a group, reading the gospel, and watching the video, these are some open ended questions we suggest:

1. How are your Lenten observances going? Are you following the plans you made? Have they changed?
2. In the last two Sundays we have gone from the desert to the top of a mountain- spiritual testing to a place where God meets his people. Have you been to both places this Lent? Do you think you will reach both places? What does a mountaintop during Lent look like for you?
3. Peter tried to tether Jesus to something he understood by suggesting that he builds tents for them. But Jesus is outside of the old framework and can't be boxed into anything. What 'tent' do you try to force Jesus into? What 'tent' have you placed him in? Do his teachings honestly back up your ideologies and beliefs?
4. Jesus touches the disciples to dispel their fear. Think about a time when God has touched you and comforted you in the middle of a struggle. What did that comfort look like? What did you do after you came down from that mountain? Have you experienced a moment where you were forced to move ahead without feeling ready?
5. Are you being transfigured in any way this Lent? How are you becoming more like Jesus? How will you maintain this change? Is it comfortable or uncomfortable?

A reading from the book of Genesis

The LORD said to Abram: "Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you." "I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the communities of the earth shall find blessing in you." Abram went as the LORD directed him.

A reading from the second letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

Beloved: Bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the strength that comes from God. He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

A reading from the Gospel according to Saint Matthew

Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."