

# Community Group Question Guide

## Matthew 17:9-20 – Mountain Retreat, Parts 2&3

**9** *And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.”*

**10** *And the disciples asked him, “Then why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?”*

**11** *He answered, “Elijah does come, and he will restore all things.*

**12** *But I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man will certainly suffer at their hands.”*

**13** *Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them of John the Baptist.*

**14** *And when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and, kneeling before him,*

**15** *said, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he has seizures and he suffers terribly. For often he falls into the fire, and often into the water.*

**16** *And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.”*

**17** *And Jesus answered, “O faithless and twisted generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me.”*

**18** *And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was healed instantly.*

**19** *Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”*

**20** *He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.” *ESV**

- Why do you think Jesus commanded Peter, James & John to keep quiet about the transfiguration until after the resurrection?
- Elijah has come – in the person and ministry of John the Baptist – but things do not seem very “restored.” What do you think Jesus is talking about in V11?
- “Falls into fire and water” – what do these events indicate is at work here?
- What do you make of Jesus’ response in V17? Does this bother you? Why / why not?
- Jesus previously granted his disciples power to cast out demons – why did it not work here?
- How do they – and we – get more faith?
- What, does it seem, the 9 disciples down the mountain were not doing?
- What do you think Jesus means by “moving mountains?” He did not go around moving mountains...
- Take a look at Mark’s account in 9:2-29. How does he add to your understanding of the scene?
- Pray together – that God would enlarge your faith. And think specifically about the areas of your life where you long for *mustard seed faith*.