

## Great Church or Great God?

### Word

#### Scripture Reference

1 Peter 4:1-11

#### Discussion Questions

1. Is there a special experience that you wished would last for a long time? What makes that experience so special?
2. Read Luke 9:28-36. Jesus set out to a prayer retreat in the mountains with a small group of disciples: James, John and Peter. After praying for several hours, something astonishing happened. Describe what took place while Jesus was praying (v. 29). Who appeared and what did they do (v. 30-31)? If you were with the three disciples, how would you have felt seeing that?
3. The appearance of Moses and Elijah, both great figures of the Old Testament, confirmed the identity of Jesus as the Messiah. The transfiguration was a revelation of God's presence, power and glory. How did Peter and his fellow disciples respond to this glorious sight? What did Peter want to build? Is it wrong to commemorate our amazing experiences with God?
4. Peter and other Christians believe that the primary purpose of God's people is to build a great church. What do you think makes a great church? How is the people's definition of a great church different to Jesus' definition, which is that each of its people be a person who "reveals a great God"? How do great church programs and activities sidetrack a Christian from being committed to God?
5. The best church growth device today is a community of people who live out God in their relationship with one another and their ministry in the world. Christians should be acting out the essence of Biblical values like grace, forgiveness, acceptance, and celebration.

When God's people do it, God's greatness is revealed to those around them. In order to do this, what should you do, as Peter was told in verse 35? What does "listening" to Jesus, mean? What does it entail aside from hearing or reading God's Word? How does God's Word transform a person?

6. The main reason why the church exists is to minister to the world and share the gospel. The church should be proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God, not building a great church that's busy promoting activities. As part of the body of Christ, the Church, how do you minister to the needs of those outside the church? Do you expect something in return when you serve? What did Jesus say of His ministry in Mark 10:45?

### Walk

Spiritual renewal in the church will only happen when you as a believer go back and build a foundation on the Biblical truths and values that will help you to reveal a great God. The purpose of the church is to give itself away in order to reveal a great God to the many who are spiritually lost. This will happen when you allow God to transform your life as you minister in His name. What may God possibly want to say to you about the Lord Jesus today? What can you do in your personal devotions to help you listen to Jesus? Who else can you talk about Jesus with outside of your LifeGroup?

### Worship & Prayer

*Father, thank You for the privilege of belonging to a church community that gives me a lot of opportunities not only to learn from Your Word, but also to practice Your Word. Help me, Lord, to look at each church program as an opportunity to reveal Your greatness. Teach me to be humble, forgiving, loving, gracious, and kind, especially to those who do not know you. Allow me, Father, to live out the truths I learn from Your Word. In the midst of this, protect me from being sidetracked from my personal commitment of knowing You. These things I pray in Christ's name. Amen.*