**100 Days with Jesus**

**Study No. 11 Matthew 17:1-13**

**Introduction**

This incident points from Earth to Heaven. Jesus and the disciples have climbed above the normal, the everyday, the routine, the usual. They have looked into the distance, the distant past and the distant future. That is largely why people climb mountains: to see into the distance; to see beyond the normal; to look down and see the everyday routine as so many ants scrambling about in the dust; to see beauty, mystery, light and shade.

Here on the mountain top, the disciples see, get excited and begin to feel things they have never felt before.

**Questions**

Read Matthew 17:1-13

1. It seems as if Peter, James and John were like the inner core of the twelve for Jesus. Why do you think Jesus needed this group?
   1. Have you got particular people you lean at important times?
2. 17:3 – Of all the Old Testament characters that could have appeared on the mountain, why do you think it was Moses and Elijah?
3. 17:4 – Why do you think Peter offers to build three shelters?
4. Are you tempted to do things for Jesus rather than simply being with Jesus?
5. 17:5 – Why does God speaks to his Son at his baptism and here at the Transfiguration?
6. 17:9 – Why did Jesus instruct the disciples not to tell anyone until after the resurrection?
7. The disciples question in v10 goes back to a prophecy in Malachi 4v5-6:  
   *“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”*

What do you think Jesus’ reply in 17:11-12 means?

1. Have you ever had a ‘Mountain-top experience’ when God felt particularly close to you?

**Key question to finish: Who is God and how do we respond?**

**Prayer**

Lord God

Heavenly Father

Help me to be silent

To listen

To gaze

To wonder

To hear

And then take me

Up the mountain

Amen.

**Leaders notes**

3. Most people think Moses represents the Law and Elijah represents the Prophets.

4. Some of us are always needing to do something rather than taking in the moment. The story of Mary and Martha is a prime example.

8. Firstly, spiritually speaking Elijah had already come in the person of John the Baptist. John was an Elijah like figure.  
Secondly, Elijah, or another Elijah like figure will appear before Jesus returns.

Or another way of looking at this is to say that God is always sending Elijah like figures to call us back to himself.