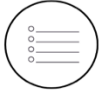


SPRING WEEK 3 | *April 11-12, 2026***LEADER NOTES****Leader Reminder: Focus on What Matters Most**

From Essentials Training, we know:

**People > Content**It can be tempting to:

- get through every question
- keep things on track
- “teach” the material well

But the win isn’t finishing the guide.

The win is:

- people who are seen and known
- people feeling safe to contribute to conversation
- people taking a step toward Jesus

**Success this week is:**

Hearing from everyone at every meeting and keeping God’s Word at the center.

**UPCOMING EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- ◇ **Ready to Make an Impact?** – Each Life Group quarter we invite all of our Life Groups to make an impact through serving together with one of our Local Impact partners. Has your Life Group picked an Impact Project yet? From packing toiletry kits and sack lunches to hosting bingo nights at the senior center, building beautification, meal delivery and so much more, the North Coast Impact website has hundreds of service opportunities in your area! Learn more in the North Coast Church app or at [northcoastchurch.com](http://northcoastchurch.com)

# LEADER DISCUSSION GUIDE

April 11-12, 2026

## WARM UP



1. This weekend, we learned about the Transfiguration (when Jesus briefly revealed His divine glory to a few disciples). This was one of the most epic moments in history and a memory they probably thought about often. What moment in your life do you wish you could stay in longer or relive?

- **Group Dynamic Tip:** You don't need to force spiritual depth here. But you can gently encourage it by asking: "What made that moment so meaningful to you?"

2. In Jesus' time, Moses and Elijah were seen as the two biggest cultural and spiritual heroes. Chris pointed out that the "action figures" of the time would have been modeled after them. What dolls or action figures did you have, or really, really want, as a kid?

3. What has stuck with you most from this weekend's message?

- **Additional Questions:** If you had to summarize one takeaway from the message in your own words, what would it be? What's something from the message you'd want to talk about more or understand better?

## KNOW IT



1. This weekend, we talked about two motivations for surrender: love and fear. In the Transfiguration, the disciples "fell facedown to the ground, terrified" (Matthew 17:6). Read Matthew 17:1-7 and Hebrews 4:14-16. In these passages, we see a God whose authority inspires fear but whose gentle touch picks us back up. Whether you're more likely to surrender out of fear or love, how do these passages affirm or challenge your view of God?

- **New Group/New Member:** This might be a high exposure question for someone who is new. One way to ease into this question would be to start with examining the text: "What stands out to you about how Jesus responds to the disciples?"
- **Additional Thought:** The conversation could skew towards only viewing God through the lenses of love. Dismissing fear reduces His authority. Both love and fear are necessary for a full picture of God.

2. The mountaintop was meant to encourage and prepare them for the suffering in the valley to come. Read Mark 14:32-42. What does it look like to surrender even during times of suffering? How did Jesus model surrender in this passage?

- **Additional Thought:** Contrary to culture, mountaintop moments are not the destination. They are preparation for faithful surrender in the valley.
- **Conversation caution:** Don't allow your group to minimize suffering. Phrases like "God has a plan" or "Everything happens for a reason" shut people down. There is a weight to suffering and it's okay to allow the group to sit in the tension.
- **Additional verse:** Romans 5:3-4 - *Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.*

## SHARE IT



1. Surrender is a lot easier to talk about than it is to actually live out. Why do you think surrender is so difficult for us as humans, even though we're surrendering to a great God?

- **New Group/New Member:** The tendency is to provide a safe, general answer that shies away from exposing any real struggles. What if you were to start broader, then gently press further? The following question could help the conversation shift towards: "Where do you personally feel that tension?"
- **Established Groups:** Your group will likely find it easier to be vulnerable. Help your group not just to be aware of their struggles to surrender, but to take the next step of ownership. A follow up question could be "What would full obedience look like in that area?"
- **Additional verse:** Proverbs 3:5-7 - *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and shun evil.*

2. Jesus walked around as a living miracle for 33 years, but it took the Transfiguration to pull back the curtain on His true glory for the disciples to get a glimpse of it. Have you ever had a moment where you realized you'd been missing a greater God than the box you've put Him in all along?

- **Additional Questions:** What are some common misconceptions people have about God? In what ways do you tend to "put God in a box"?
- **Additional verse:** Psalm 145:3-7 - *Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They tell of the power of your awesome works—and I will proclaim your great deeds. They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.*

## LIVE IT



1. Chris talked about how sometimes great things can get in the way of God things. What are the things in your life that you tend to do your way and not God's way? How can you surrender them this week?

- **Additional Thought:** Misplaced priorities and subtle self-reliance sabotage our surrender to God.
- **Conversational Caution:** The conversation could easily drift towards talk about productivity (If I only did more of...) and behavior modification (If I stopped doing this...). Keep the conversation anchored to obedience and trust.



## How Our Great Things Can Kill Our God Things

### Understanding the mountaintop experience:

Matthew 17:1-13, 3:17, 5:17, 12:6, Genesis 12:1-3, Exodus 3, 13:21, 24:15-18, 34:29-35, 40:34, Deuteronomy 18:15-19, 1 Kings 19:1-18, Daniel 7:9, Ezekiel 10:18-19, Malachi 4:5, Luke 9:31, Philipians 2:5-11

To understand **MOSES** and **ELIJAH**, we need to understand a little about the **LAW** and the **PROPHETS**.

Getting the whole picture:

**MOUNTAINTOP**

**TRANSFORMED FACE**

**WHITE AS LIGHT CLOTHES**

**CLOUD**

**“LISTEN TO HIM!”**

All of these things shouted that **GOD** was standing in front of them.

### How do we actually “Listen to Him”?

Matthew 17:1-13

Loving God and listening to Jesus is all about **SURRENDER** and **OBEDIENCE**, not **FEELINGS** and **EMOTIONS**.

We accomplish this by putting **EVERY AREA** of our life under the **AUTHORITY** of Jesus’ words.