

SHAPED BY JESUS: THE TRANSFORMATION OF JAMES & JOHN

MARK 1 & 10

MAIN TAKEAWAY

When Jesus calls, He equips—He doesn't just see who you are today but who you can become through Him. Jesus shapes and transforms!

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

The recurring theme in our **Jesus & You** series is that Jesus never treated two people the same way. He meets us individually, personally, and uniquely. He sees beyond our past mistakes, insecurities, and what the world says about us. He meets us where we are, not where we think we should be. And the same is true today. Jesus doesn't treat you like another name on a list—He meets you in your doubts, fears, failures, and questions. He doesn't demand perfection before calling you; He calls you first and walks with you through the transformation.

In what way were the disciples of Jesus ordinary men? Why do you think Jesus specifically chose them, and what does this imply about all His followers?

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MARK 1:19-20

***The Raw Elements.* What was unique about James and John? How did they earn the nickname "the sons of thunder" (Luke 9:53-56)?**

How is the calling of Jesus costly? When giving up something to follow Jesus, in what way is it replaced with something greater? How did James and John experience this? How have you experienced sacrifice and blessing?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ MARK 10:37-45

The Refining Process. How is God's discipline an act of love (Hebrews 12:6)? What is the result of God's refining (Job 23:10)?

How did Jesus transform James and John's zeal and ambition? How was Jesus the solution to their problem and the example for them to follow?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 12:1-2 & REVELATION 1:9

The Finished Product. What is sanctification? Since the process of being refined by God is lifelong, how can you identify spiritual growth throughout your life? How do you think James and John learned this truth?

Pastor Jonathan said, "God often calls us in our rawest, most unrefined state, but He doesn't leave us there." God refines raw elements and transforms them. How did James and John experience this and then learn to share it with others?

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

By choosing ordinary men, Jesus shows us that God's power is made perfect in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9), and that if He did it with them, He can do it with us. How have you seen these truths in your life as a follower of Jesus?

Pastor Jonathan explained that the opportunities ahead of us are like a raw material that God can shape and transform. He shared four ways to be part of God's work at Harvest: 1) Pray—this is where it all begins. 2) Serve—have a passion for servanthood. 3) Give—generosity fuels the mission. 4) Be present—be part of this community. How will you be part of what God is shaping? How can God use you for transformation?

PRAYER

Give thanks that Jesus shapes and transforms our lives. Pray for God's refining and empowering work in your life and in our church.