

TITLE AND NUMBER: 46. Just Jesus and me



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Mark 9:30-32

They left that place and passed through Galilee. Jesus did not want anyone to know where they were, because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, 'The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.' But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it."

LOOKING FURTHER: James 4:8 ; Ephesians 4:4-6 ; James 1:5

What does this Bible passage tell us?

During Covid, we missed the opportunity to meet together for worship. We sometimes think we can really only meet God in particular places and times. And the more people who are there and the more that is going on, the better.

In this passage, we read how Jesus wanted to be alone in a small group with His disciples because He wanted to teach them. Like the disciples, each one of us is special to Jesus and He wants us to make time to meet with Him. James 4:8 reads, "Come near to God and he will come near to you." We can draw near to God in a service in chapel or church, and we can also draw near to Him in our own space when we pray, read the Bible, and reflect on His Word. God can draw near to us anywhere – including quiet times when it is just Jesus and you.

When and where can you draw near to God? It will be different for each person. For some, it will be in your cell, but that may not work if you are in a double. For others, it may be out on the yard, when Covid allows. Some of you may be fortunate to work alone or outdoors. In Ephesians 4:6, Paul describes how God is "over all, and through all, and in all". You can find God anywhere that works for you. It may take a bit of effort to find the best time and place and to make it a habit. So stick with it!

Jesus tried to explain some difficult things to His disciples, but they didn't understand. However, they were afraid to ask Him to explain. I have met many people who have wanted to ask questions to help them know God better, but who have felt those questions were not always welcome. James 1:5 says, "If anyone lacks wisdom, let him ask God." When I was young, we used to sing a song with the chorus "Christ is the answer". Don't struggle with questions and doubts: ask God in prayer and through looking in the Bible, and ask Christians who you trust to help you.

Reflections:

- Think about a time when you have felt Jesus particularly close to you. What can you learn from that experience to help you find the best time and place to "come near to God"?
- Ephesians 4:6 says, "God is over all, and through all, and in all." Where have you seen God at work today?
- We thought above about how we can help one another by sharing our experiences. What experiences could you share that would help someone else?

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



What have you seen God do in response to your prayers this week?

