



ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH

FEBRUARY 11TH, 2024

MARK 9:2-5

'ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP'



The days when everything is going well and you are on top the highest mountain, are days that prepare us for the days when you feel like you are in one of the deep valleys below, looking upwards trying to find the light of the day.

Mark 9:2-9

'Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them to a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.'

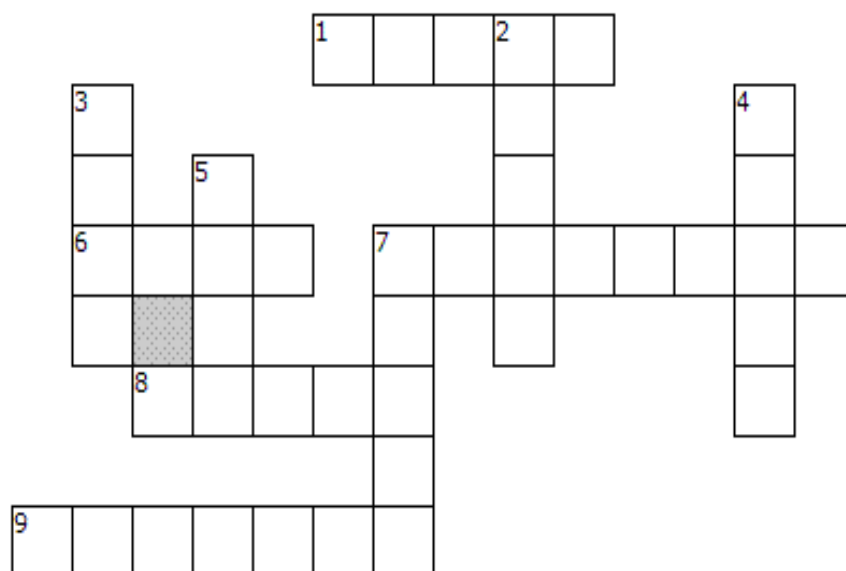
On one of our camping trips we travelled into the Victoria High Country and drove along the ridge which gave us some of the most beautiful scenery you can ever witness on God's creation. For as far as the eye could see all we could see were mountain tops off into the distance that soared high above all the shadowed valleys below. Going high up into the mountains often is a relief from the heat of the plain below and respite from the hurley burley of school, homework, and sports. The mountaintop experience is a time to relax and rest. When we are enjoying a treat like this it can be difficult to come back to school again.

Did you know that Jesus also enjoyed getting away for a mountain retreat? Jesus' friend Mark wrote that one day Jesus took Peter, James and John high up into the mountains so that they could be alone. While on the mountain top, Jesus' appearance changed. His clothes became a dazzling white, whiter than any bleach could get them. Then Elijah and Moses appeared and began talking to Jesus. Peter exclaimed, 'Teacher, it is wonderful for us to be here! Let's build three shelters – one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' Then a cloud passed over and covered them. From the cloud came a voice saying, 'This is my Son, and I love him. listen to what he says!' then when they looked again, the only person they could see was Jesus.

I imagine that Peter, James and John would have been very happy to stay up there on the mountain top, but did they? No, Jesus knew that the reason of their experience on the mountain top was to give them strength for the difficult days that were ahead of them, so Jesus took the disciples back down from the mountains into the valley.

Sometimes, we all need to have a joyful holiday in the mountains to help us get through our hard days. We also need to have our own daily 'mountain top' experience with Jesus so we know we can get through the tough days.

Prayer: Jesus thanks for the wonderful message of the mountain top I've read today. Thank you for reassuring me that even on the tough days, you will be with me, making me strong in Spirit enough so I don't stay sad and sorry for myself. Thank you for staying with me on my daily walk. Amen



ACROSS

1. The sound produced by the vocal organs; what we use to speak
6. Something that is pleasing, enjoyable, or of high quality
7. A raised part of the earth's surface, larger than a hill
8. The Son of God
9. Articles of apparel such as pants, shirts, dresses, etc.

DOWN

2. A white or gray mass of very small drops of water that floats in the sky
3. Having a great distance from top to bottom
4. The color of snow or milk
5. To have a strong feeling of affection for someone
7. Jewish leader who received the Ten Commandments

CLOTHES	MOUNTAIN	WHITE	LOVE	VOICE
MOSES	CLOUD	JESUS	HIGH	GOOD

I P E T E R Z Z K E M T F F K
 B P S Q Q R A B B I L A Y P Z
 Q Q A H E L J E P J T I V H R
 G M G N W F G G K V K G J O L
 S I O G O Z N J O O J O M A X
 H L B S R I L O Z I P O O G H
 A B Y T L V K H C C C D O K Z
 M A L Z D A W N W E Q Z E L T
 D O Z E J M P B W H I T E X K
 S A U M A Q O P C L O T H E S
 D I Q N L C A S E M L V P O C
 S B X H T O H W E A Z R G Z V
 Q Z Y R G A V C Z S R O X R Z
 P Q V O Y W I E T H N E G S K
 K J A M E S Y N N O N C D C Z

DAYS	JOHN	APPEARED	CLOTHES	BLEACH
HIGH	RABBI	MOSES	GOOD	VOICE
PETER	WHITE	LOVE	SIX	ALONE
ELIJAH	WORLD	DAZZLING	MOUNTAIN	JAMES



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oiZJbndSkX4>

