



## THE BIGGER STORY **FOLLOW**

### Session 4

Serve and Be Served  
week starting May 15



Jesus consistently taught the disciples that his Kingdom is outward focused, emphasizing the importance of reaching those not yet part of the family of God. He modeled this by taking on the posture of a servant (Matthew 20:28). Much like we do, the disciples saw things from their own point of view, considering what would best serve them. Even when Peter acknowledged Jesus as Messiah, he tried to fit Jesus into his view of what the Messiah should do. We are to posture ourselves outwardly, aligning with Jesus' heart for his community. Let's observe Peter's transformation from one who would have stayed on the mountain of the Transfiguration, to one who would willingly eat with the gentile Cornelius.

### GETTING STARTED

- Report on your Life Mapping activity. What stood out to you? How has God been at work shaping you through the events and people in your life?
- When has someone self-sacrificially done something for you?

### READ & DISCUSS

1. Read Mark 8:27–33. In this narrative how does Peter get it right? To whose credit? How does he get it wrong?
2. In your life, where has Jesus' way clashed with your way?
3. Reflect on a meaningful time when you served others. Why was it impactful? How did it change you/your perspective?
4. What insights do you have about Peter's response to Jesus' transfiguration, as described in Matthew 17:1–13? Describe a mountain top experience you've had and its impact on you. Was it difficult when it ended? Explain.
5. Read Acts 10. How has Peter's perspective changed? How has God moved you out of your comfort zone to serve others? Do you sense Him challenging you to serve in a new direction?
6. If your group hasn't served together in some way recently, discuss planning something in the near future.

### SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

While he [Peter] was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Matthew 17:5

### PRAY

Jesus, thank you for the mountain top experiences you've given us. Thank you for showing us how to put others first. Inspire us to love and serve others as you have done. Help us to see with your vision the possibilities in our neighborhoods, workplaces, and communities.

### SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE *Play* (do on your own before the next meeting)

Choose part of a day this week and look for ways to serve others as you spend playful time in your community.



**SHEPHERD**  
OF THE VALLEY