



WEEK 4 - MOUNTAINS OVERVIEW

In the ancient world, everyone understood that the tops of mountains were sacred places, since they were the closest you could get to the heavens. This concept is deeply embedded in the biblical imagination as well. From Eden, described as a mountain garden where God and humanity could walk together, to Mount Sinai, where God and Moses met to give the people the law, to Mount Zion, where Jerusalem's temple was constructed, mountains play an important role in God's relationship with humanity throughout Scripture. When these threads are woven together, the Bible invites us all to consider our own relationship to the "mountain of the Lord." What are the sacred mountaintops of our modern lives? And how does our hope and joy deepen as we await the day when the mountain-garden of Eden will cover the entire earth?

Jesus took Peter, John, and James up on a mountain to pray. And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed, and his clothes became dazzling white.

Luke 9:28-29

Bible Project Video: <https://bibleproject.com/videos/the-mountain/>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of mountains?
2. Read Genesis 2:10, 15.
 - a. Where is the garden of Eden?
 - b. What is Maron talking about when she says, "cosmic mountain"?
 - c. Describe the idea of Eden as *shalom*.
3. Why do you think many important events in the Bible happened on mountains?
4. Read Psalms 24:3-4 and Psalms 15:1-2.
 - a. Why couldn't humanity stay on the mountain of God's presence, his *shalom*?
 - b. How is Jesus "the cosmic mountain"? (see also John 1:14.)
5. Read Colossians 1:19-23 EASY and 1 Corinthians 6:19 EASY.
 - a. After Jesus died on the cross, who could ascend the mountain of the Lord to enter his presence?
 - b. Where is His temple, the cosmic mountaintop now?
6. Consider these questions Maron asked, and share with your group, if you are willing:
 - a. What kind of mountain are facing today? Is there a challenge in front of you that fills you with anxiety?
 - b. Where do you need God to meet you? Or where does God want to meet you?
 - c. Where is He already moving?
 - d. What is He inviting you to?
 - e. Have given Him your 'yes'?
 - f. What incredible and amazing things, beyond anything you could ask or think, might God want to do through your surrendered life? If you would only lift your eyes?