

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

March 5, 2023 • 2nd Sunday of Lent • Matthew 17:1-9

Space Mountain or Bust

Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain. He is transfigured before them. His face shines and his clothes are a dazzling white. With Jesus are Elijah and Moses. Peter tells Jesus they should set up three tents. As they come down the mountain, Jesus tells them not to tell anyone about the vision they experienced.

I was always after a mountaintop experience for our family. I can't tell you how many vacations I planned envisioning our whole family arm-in-arm declaring, "How good it is to be here!" It never happened. I remember one vacation in particular that I looked forward to for months.

Four of our five children were teenagers. With seven different schedules we hardly ever saw each other. I longed for a week away together, playing board games and enjoying each others' company. I just knew that Disney World would be that dream vacation, so we piled into our old blue van and headed for the famed "Space Mountain."

Nothing turned out as I had pictured it. The four teens spent a great deal of their time in the "Sunshine State" napping. When we finally got to the Magic Kingdom, my suggestions that we stay together went unheard. The kids took off like marbles dropped on concrete. I felt lucky to snap a picture or two whenever we regrouped.

That was the story of the whole week. The kids would go off in twos or threes to swim or hang out. Even our nine-year-old walked at least six feet behind us. I was pretty miserable. Where was all our together time? Finally, I began to realize that all those weeks I was planning how I wanted to spend our family vacation, but the kids had different ideas.

Once I let go of my particular plan, I began to have fun. We even managed to play one or two board games. And we took great pictures. My favorite is of our five children, arm in arm, all wearing big grins and Mickey Mouse ears. Today, whenever I look at that picture I realize we can't force a mountaintop experience, but sometimes if we just let go, it may happen.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Have family members talk about one of their favorite vacations together as a family. You might have them draw or write down their thoughts beforehand.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

What was the last mountaintop experience you remember having either by yourself or with your family? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?