

Last Sunday after Epiphany – year B

Transfiguration Sunday

Preparation

Read the Gospel [Mark 9:2-9](#) over. Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump at you. Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yearb/transfigb.htm>

http://www.sermons4kids.com/mountain_top.htm

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/trans.htm>

<http://www.word-sunday.com/Files/b/2Lent-b/A-2Lent-b.html>

<http://www.efree.mb.ca/lectionarypuzzles/in-bwjj.htm#ep99>

<http://www.sundayschoolsources.com/lessons/transfig.htm>

<http://www.mssscrafts.com/newtestament/transfiguration.htm>

<http://children.cccm.com/NTSupportCurriculumPDF/239TheTransfiguration.pdf>

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- White candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- White cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Small bowl of water
- [Caterpillar picture](#) and [butterfly picture](#) – print ahead of time

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you. Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the candle and the Bible on the cloth. Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

Light of the world, shine on us, *(point to the candle)*

Water of the world, refresh us, *(point to the water)*

Word of the world, teach us, *(point to the Bible)*

Loving God, be with us in all that we do. Amen.

Blow out the candle. Ask the children if they can think of anything that they know that has been transformed, been changed. (Wait for their responses.) Lay down the picture of the caterpillar. Ask the children if they know what the animal is and what it turns into (they will probably accurately tell you a caterpillar and butterfly). Lay down the picture of the butterfly. Ask the children if they have ever been surprised by someone changing and they weren't expecting it. Explain that in today's story Jesus goes through a change his friends were not expecting.

Story Time

Materials needed

- A comfortable place to tell the story –around a table or on the floor with cushions
- Little people toys – 6 all together
- masking tape
- fine tip marker
- cotton balls

Instructions

Label the toys with the masking tape with the following names – Jesus, Peter, James, John, Elijah and Moses. Put the first four toy people where the children can see them.

One day Jesus called Peter, James and John to go with him on a special journey.
Have the children help you move the four little people along as they were going on a journey.
 They travelled up a large mountain. They went right to the top of the mountain. Jesus wanted them to be by themselves for awhile.

While they were on the mountain an amazing thing happened to Jesus. His clothes became dazzling white. His face began to glow with a special light. Peter, James and John were all surprised by what had happened.

Jesus' friends had another surprise. All of sudden there was Elijah and Moses the two great prophets of God's people standing with Jesus and talking with him.
Place the two other little people by the toy labelled Jesus and move the other three little people toys away from the Jesus one.

Elijah and Moses had both been dead for a long, long time so Peter, James and John had not been expecting to see them.

Peter had an idea. *Move the little people toy labelled Peter next to the Jesus one.*
 He said to Jesus, "Teacher it is good that James and John and I are here. Let us make three huts . One for you. One for Elijah and one for Moses. "

Peter didn't really know what else to say as he and James and John were all scared and shocked by what was going on.

The surprises were not done for the day. A cloud came down over all of them.
Have the children help you cover up all the toy people with the cotton balls.
 Out of the cloud came the most amazing voice. The voice said, "This is Jesus. He is my Son. He is the beloved of God. Listen to him."

Lift the cotton balls up and take away the toy people marked Elijah and Moses.
 The cloud left them all of a sudden. When Peter and James and John looked around they saw that they were all alone with Jesus. They were beginning to wonder about what had happened.

Jesus took them back down the mountain.
Move the toy figures with the children as if they are coming down a mountain.
 Jesus told them that they were not to tell anyone about what had just happened. They were to wait and tell the others about it after Jesus had risen from the dead. It was a day full of surprises for the three friends of Jesus.

Response

Project Idea 1: Transfiguration Mobile

To help sum up all the learning of the last 7 weeks have a children make this mobile and see what they can remember from each of the stories that the shapes were used in.

Materials needed

- all of the various images from the last weeks (since Epiphany):
dove, fig leaf, fish, church, sun, hand and cloud
- construction paper
- yarn
- scissors
- hole punch
- hangers
- markers

Instructions

Make copies of each image. If time cut them out and trace out on the various colours of construction paper so that each child will have a complete set. If not time make enough copies so that each child will have a complete set. As the children are cutting their images out of the construction paper, ask them to think about the different stories that the images represent – dove – baptism of Jesus – fig leaf – calling of Philip and Nathaniel – fish – calling of Simon, Andrew, James and John – church – Jesus teaching in the synagogue – sun – the day Jesus had healing – hand – healing of the leper - cloud – Jesus being transformed. Once they have their shapes cut out help them to punch holes in them and then cut yarn to tie them on the hanger. You may want to make the yarn different lengths. Invite the children to think about where they can hang up their mobiles at home and remember the stories about Jesus.

Project Idea 2: Responsive Art

Sometimes a story is so big, like the story of the Transfiguration, that a good way to respond is with an art project that has no clear end.

Materials needed

- construction paper
- glue
- glitter
- pipe cleaners
- stickers
- tissue paper
- scissors
- markers
- cotton balls
- tinfoil
- other craft materials that are handy

Instructions

Lay out the craft materials for the children. Invite them to think about the story of Jesus on the mountain with his friends. Invite them to think about the experience of Jesus and his friends. Invite them when they are ready to create an artistic response to the story. When they are

finished invite them to share with each other their creations. Remind the children that there is no one way to respond to the story and that everyone's contributions are welcome.

Project Idea 3: Prayer Wall

This will be an ongoing activity for the season after Epiphany. Each week the children will add new prayers to the walls using a symbol from the story that will be identified for you. This activity will be a good way to reinforce the learning from the stories that they will participate in.

Materials needed

- cloud image at end of lesson
- white construction paper
- scissors
- glue
- markers
- glitter

Instructions

Copy the cloud image at end of lesson. Cut out and trace the shape onto the white construction paper. Make enough so that each child will have one. Have the children cut out the cloud shape. As they are cutting out their clouds ask the children to think about who they love and who they are thankful for. Have them use the markers to print the names on their cloud shape. Spread some glue around the edges of the cloud and sprinkle the glitter on the glue. Shake off the excess. Help the children to attach them to the prayer wall. With the children take a look at all the prayers that they have added over the weeks of the season of Epiphany that ends this week. Remind to pray for the person that they have named this week.

Closing

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candles. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**As we leave this place, God be with us,
As we leave this place, Jesus be with us,
As we leave this place, Spirit be with us.
Amen.**

Cloud Image

