

## Last Sunday after Epiphany – year A Transfiguration

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### Preparation

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Read [Matthew 17:1-9](#). 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/yeara/transfiga.htm>

[http://www.episcopalchurch.org/109452\\_115820\\_ENG\\_HTM.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/109452_115820_ENG_HTM.htm)

[http://www.sermons4kids.com/that\\_settles\\_it.htm](http://www.sermons4kids.com/that_settles_it.htm)

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

<http://www.ebibleteacher.com/children/lessons/transfig.htm>

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

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

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

### Gathering

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#### Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle and candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- Picture of a [caterpillar](#) and of a [butterfly](#). Choose one of each and 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:

**Learning new things, we walk with God;  
Loving new ways, we walk with Jesus;  
Looking for hope, we walk with the Spirit. 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

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### Materials

- poster from previous weeks
- Transfiguration image at the end of the lesson
- scissors
- wall tack or tape
- 6 little people toys
- masking tape
- fine tip marker
- cotton balls

### Instructions

- Copy the Transfiguration image at the end of the lesson and cut it out. Place it near the poster with the wall tack or tape. 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. Get comfortable with the children to share the story.

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.

*Point out the poster to the children. Explain that this is the last week that they are going to add a symbol (an object that reminds us of something) to the poster. Bring out the transfiguration image. Ask the children why we put the transfiguration image on for today? To remind us of that God speaks through Jesus and we need to listen to him. Have one of the children tape it onto the poster on the top of the hill/mountain. With the children look at all the symbols that they have put up for each week and see what they remember about each story.*

## Response

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### Project Idea 1: Transfiguration Picture

*This simple picture will be a good response for younger children and give them a visual reminder of today's story.*

#### Materials needed

- [colouring page](#)
- crayons
- vegetable oil
- small containers
- cotton balls
- white paper
- paper towel

#### Instructions

Print out the colouring page and make a copy for each child. Give each child a picture to colour with the crayons. Pour the vegetable oil into small containers. When the children are done colouring show them how to dip a cotton ball into the vegetable oil and then carefully wipe it over the whole picture. When they are done use paper towel to soak up the excess oil. Have the children hold up their pictures to a light source so that they can see how their picture was transformed by the oil just as Jesus was transfigured by being in God's presence. Encourage the children to share their pictures with their families when they take them home.

### Project Idea 2: Beloved of God Bookmark

*Making this bookmark a gift lets the children share one of the key messages of today's story with someone that they care about and helps them to remember it more clearly.*

#### Materials needed

- card stock
- markers
- scissors
- glitter and glue
- tissue paper
- clear contact paper
- hole punch
- yarn

## Instructions

Cut the card stock into 8 cm wide strips vertically. Have the children (or do this for them) print the following vertically down the card stock: '**Beloved of God**'. Invite the children to decorate their bookmark by gluing on bits of tissue paper (except not on the words) and then sprinkling glitter over the tissue paper. Cut pieces of clear contact paper that will fit over the bookmark. Help the children to cover their bookmarks with the contact paper. When they are done that have them punch a hole in the top end and then tie a piece of yarn through it. Invite the children to think about who they would like to give their bookmarks to – someone who they think is beloved of God. Remind the children that God asked us to listen to Jesus who is beloved of God.

## Project Idea 3: Epiphany Mobile

*This response will give the children a chance to review all the different stories that they have heard over the last 9 weeks of the Epiphany season.*

### Materials needed

- all the images from the season of Epiphany (you will need to access previous lessons)
- construction paper,
- scissors
- glue
- markers
- yarn
- hole punch
- hangers

### Instructions

Make a complete copy of all the images from the season of Epiphany for each child. Cut 9 pieces of yarn into lengths varying from 15 to 30 cm – make enough for each child. Give a set of images to each child and have them cut them out and glue them on to the construction paper. They will then need to cut out each one from the construction paper. If you have time, let the children colour in the images with the markers. Have the children punch a hole into the top of the image and then tie a piece of yarn onto it. Tie the other end of the yarn onto the hanger. As they are working have the children tell you about the different stories that each image reminds them about. Encourage the children to hang up their mobiles at home and tell their families about the different stories each image comes from.

## Closing

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

**Thank you God for being with us;  
Thank you Jesus for loving us;  
Thank you Spirit for leading us. Amen.**

## Image of Transfiguration

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