

Last Sunday after Epiphany – year C

Transfiguration

Preparation

Read [Luke 9: 28-36](#) 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/yearc/transfigc.htm>

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

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

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

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

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

Gathering

Materials needed

- Small table or end of one table
- Candle
- Candle lighter
- Bible and bookmark
- Green cloth
- Newsprint and markers
- A picture of yourself as a baby or young child

Print up the prayer on the newsprint so that the readers can say the prayer with you.

With the children place the cloth on the table. Have them help you place the Bible on the cloth.

Light the candle. Pray the following prayer together:

Gracious God, bless our time together.

Loving Jesus, bless our learning together.

Faithful Spirit, bless our work together. Amen.

Blow out the candles. Ask the children if they can think of anyone they know who has changed so much that they hardly could recognize them. Show the children the picture of you as a baby or young child. Ask them if they can tell who it is. Take a moment for their responses.

Explain that it is yourself and that you have changed a lot since the picture was taken.

In today's story Jesus goes through a change that astonishes his friends.

Story Time

Instructions

Teach the children the following chant. While doing the chant, have the children act out going up a mountain together:

The mountain, the mountain!
Let's go up the mountain
With Jesus today!

Jesus took three of his friends with him up the mountain. James, John and Peter went up the mountain with Jesus. They went up the mountain to pray together to God. Jesus knew that it was going to be time to show another of God's promises to his friends.

The mountain, the mountain!
Let's go up the mountain
With Jesus today!

While Jesus was praying his face began to change. Jesus clothes got all shiny and bright like they were full of light. Then James, John and Peter saw two of the prophets from the old days show up and start talking with Jesus. They realized that it was the prophet Moses, who led the people of Israel out of Egypt, and the prophet Elijah, who reminded the people about how to live in God's way.

The mountain, the mountain!
Let's go up the mountain
With Jesus today!

The two prophets spoke with Jesus about going to Jerusalem. They spoke with him about what was going to happen there. Peter, James and John were feeling very tired. However they had stayed awake. They saw the change and the glory of Jesus. They saw and heard the prophets speaking with Jesus.

The mountain, the mountain!
Let's go up the mountain
With Jesus today!

The prophets, Moses and Elijah, were about to leave Jesus. Peter leaped up and said to Jesus, "Master it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents. One for Moses. One for Elijah. One for you."

The mountain, the mountain!
Let's go up the mountain
With Jesus today!

Just as Peter was speaking a cloud came over the mountain and surrounded all of them at the same time. Peter, James and John got afraid. They didn't know what was going to happen. Then a voice came out from the cloud and surrounded them. The voice said, "This is my Son. My chosen one. Listen to him!"

The mountain, the mountain!
Let's go up the mountain
With Jesus today!

When the cloud lifted up, Jesus was alone with his friends. The three of them, Peter, James and John, didn't know what to make of what had happened. They decided not to tell anyone about what happened. It was only after Jerusalem that they remembered what happened that day on the mountain.

**The mountain, the mountain!
Let's go up the mountain
With Jesus today!**

Response

Project Idea 1: Transfiguration Picture

This response will give the children a way to share this amazing story with their families.

Materials needed

- transfiguration picture from the end of the lesson
- white paper
- crayons
- vegetable oil
- cotton balls
- small containers

Instructions

Make a copy of the transfiguration picture onto the white paper for each child. Invite the children to colour the picture with the crayons. Pour a little bit of oil into the small containers. When the children are finished colouring their pictures give them each a cotton ball. Show them how to dip their cotton balls into the oil and then gently spread it out over the coloured picture. When dry the oil will make the paper translucent and the light will shine through the picture. Invite the children to place their pictures in a window that the light comes through and remember how Jesus was changed and what God said to the friends of Jesus.

Project Idea 2: Beloved Bookmark

One of the key messages from this story is that Jesus is the beloved of God and this bookmark will help the children remember that.

Materials needed

- card stock
- contact paper
- hole punch
- yarn
- markers
- glitter
- Jesus picture at end of lesson
- scissors
- glue sticks

Instructions

Cut the card stock into 5 cm (2 in) widths. Copy and cut out the Jesus picture at the end of the lesson, so that each child has one. Give each child a prepared piece of card stock and the Jesus picture. Invite them to write the word “**Beloved**” down the middle of the bookmark and to colour in and then glue on the picture of Jesus. Let them decorate their bookmarks by spreading glue on it and then shaking glitter over it. When they are done help them to cover their bookmarks with the contact paper. Punch a hole in one end of the bookmark and tie a piece of yarn on it to complete the bookmark. Invite the children to find a favourite book to put the bookmark, so that when they use the bookmark they will remember what God said about Jesus.

Project Idea 3: Glitter Painting

Today’s story has lots of mystery and unknowns in it. This response will give the children a chance to share that mystery with their families.

Materials needed

- newsprint or drawing paper
- tempera paints
- paint brushes
- newspaper
- water
- containers
- glitter

Instructions

Cover the work area with the newspapers. Put some water into the containers. Set out the newsprint or drawing paper, paints and brushes out for the children. Invite the children to think about the story that have just heard. Now invite them to paint a picture that represents what happened during the story – encourage the children to think about using symbols if they feel they can’t paint people. When they are nearly finished have the children sprinkle glitter over the paint – as it dries the glitter will show forth in the paint. Encourage the children to share what happened during the story with their families by telling them about their paintings.

Closing

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:

For the coming of Jesus into the world, thank you God.
For the gift of the Holy Spirit, thank you God.
For the faith to serve, thank you God. Amen.

Jesus Picture

