

Lesson #3-22

The Transfiguration

Luke 9:28-45

PK-2nd

Key Verse:

Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen;
listen to him!"

Luke 9:35

The Point:

The Messiah has come to serve and calls us to serve others.

Making Connections:

Jesus Heals

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Old Testament References

Spiritual Practice:

Prayer



Activities a la Carte

Activities

Supplies

Story Centers (PK-K)

15 min.

Transfiguration Mountain

Build a mountain.

† Building blocks

Jesus, Moses, and Elijah

Create sculptures.

† Play dough

Cloud Creation

Make clouds.

† Blue construction paper

† Cotton balls

† Glue

Into the Story (1st-2nd)

10 min.

Transfiguration Tag

Tag, you're transformed.

† Nothing

Bible Nuts & Bolts (1st-2nd)

10 min.

Law+Prophet=Messiah

Create an optical illusion.

† Activity Sheet #3-22.A

† Scissors

† Straws

† Tape

† Yellow markers or crayons

† Optional: other colors of markers or crayons

Activities a la Carte

Learning the Story (PK-2nd)

You've Got to Move it, Move it

Explore the story through movement.

10 min.

- † Bible
- † Activity Sheet #3-22.B
- † Optional: children's story Bible

Living the Story (PK-2nd)

Flashlight Prayer

Pray with light.

10 min.

- † Flashlights

Singing the Story (PK-2nd)

Jesus Transformed

Sing a piggyback song to the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It."

5 min.

- † None

Additional Activities

Dazzling White (1st-2nd)

Transfiguration glitter craft.

10 min.

- † Activity Sheet #3-22.C
- † Black construction paper
- † White crayons
- † White or silver glitter
- † Paper plates
- † Glue
- † Scissors
- † Optional: glitter glue

A Great Cloud (PK-2nd)

Make a cloud science experiment.

10 min.

- † Ice
- † Glass jar with lid
- † Water
- † Electric kettle
- † Oven mitts
- † Aerosol spray

Activities a la Carte

Additional Activities

Healing the Boy (PK-2nd)

Race to heal the boy.

10 min.

- † Activity Sheet #3-22.D
- † Envelopes
- † Adhesive bandages
- † Mural paper
- † Tape

Bible Book (PK-2nd)

Optional ongoing activity.

5 min.

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Sending the Story (PK-2nd)

5 min.

- † Mural paper
- † Marker
- † Tape
- † Construction paper

Background for Teachers

Making Connections

Last week, we heard the stories of two men, one sick and the other dead. Out of amazement of the Roman centurion's faith and compassion for deceased man's mother, Jesus did the impossible: he healed the sick and raised a man from the dead. Jesus continued to do impossible things. Today's story shows us how Jesus is able to do these. The voice of God declares Jesus to be the Son of God.

Story Summary:

The Transfiguration

Jesus took Peter, John, and James to the mountain top to pray. While they were praying, Jesus began to transform and his clothing became a dazzling white. The disciples saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. Peter, not understanding what had taken place on the mountain top, thought that it might be a good idea to make three dwellings: one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. Then a cloud came and overshadowed them. God spoke and announced that Jesus is God's Son and chosen one.

The next day, Jesus met a man who begged him to heal his son, who was possessed by a demon. The language used for the demon is violent and extreme. This act of healing is another example of the liberation given to us by Jesus. After the healing of this child, Jesus begins his journey toward the cross. The end of this week leads into our journey through Lent.

The Point

The Messiah has come to serve and calls us to serve others. We end the season of Epiphany with a clear revelation of who Jesus is. Jesus is the Messiah, says the voice of God, he is the very Son of God. But this look at God's glory shining through Jesus is brief. Throughout his ministry, Jesus shows us God through his acts of service toward others. And the service that he does, he calls us to do as well.

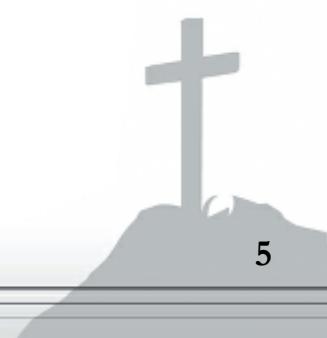
Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Old Testament References

Much of the significance of the transfiguration depends on our knowledge of Old Testament stories, including those of Moses and Elijah. This story makes a clear connection between the identity of Jesus and the history of the Jewish people. The presence of Elijah makes a connection to God's glory, as spoken by the prophets. The presence of Moses connects Jesus to his ancestors' slavery and deliverance. Jesus' own transfiguration redefines God's glory as the glory of the Son who is made in God's image and who came to deliver the people not through might, but through service.

Spiritual Practice: Prayer

The spiritual practice for this unit is prayer. Through practicing prayer in Living the Story, students will develop a deeper sense of prayer through a flashlight prayer activity. It is through the concept of lighting a flashlight that students will be reminded of Jesus being the light of the world.



Lesson Plan



Story Centers (PK-K; 15 minutes)

Story Centers are mini-activities designed specifically for preschool and kindergarten students. Depending on the size of your class, you can set these up as centers for in-class rotations or do them as a whole class one after another. In most preschool and kindergarten classes, these centers along with a snack, the “Learning the Story” activity, and the “Living the Story” activity will fill the education time, but feel free to choose any activity you think would be fun and appropriate for your class.

Transfiguration Mountain

Students will use large building blocks to build a tall mountain, just like the one that Jesus was on during the transfiguration.

Jesus, Moses, and Elijah

Students will make sculptures of three people out of play dough. For added difficulty, challenge students to make the people stand up on a mountain.

Cloud Creation

Students will use blue construction paper, cotton balls, and glue to make cloud creations.

Into the Story (1st-2nd; 10 minutes)

Transfiguration Tag

Tag, you are transformed.

You will need:

- † Nothing

Before class:

1. Find a location with room for students to move.

During class:

1. Students will need room to move for this activity. Students will then play a game of tag, except when a student is tagged by the leader, two other students must run or walk up to the one tagged and form a group of three. All three students must hold hands and lift their hands in the air to be freed. This game will be a great way to get students thinking about working together
2. Gather students and say: **We are going to play a game of freeze tag. But this game of tag is a bit different. I will start by being the person who tags others. When I tag someone, they freeze. To unfreeze them, two more people must run up to the student who was tagged, join hands, and hold their hands high in the sky. Then they are all free. There is something special about a group of three that we will talk about throughout today. Are you ready to play?** If needed, explain the basics of playing freeze tag.
3. When done, gather students and say: **Wow, that was a fast game! When I tagged someone they were frozen until two more people could help. Today, we will hear about two people from the Old Testament who made a big impact on revealing who Jesus is. These two people are Moses and Elijah.**

Bible Nuts & Bolts (1st-2nd; 10 minutes)

Law+Prophet=Messiah

Create an optical illusion.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #3-22.A
- † Scissors
- † Straws
- † Tape
- † Yellow markers or crayons
- † Optional: other colors of markers or crayons

Before class:

1. Print one copy of Activity Sheet #3-22.A for every two students.
2. Cut each sheet in half. To save time you can cut out the rectangles.

During class:

1. **Moses and Elijah were very important people in the Old Testament. Remember, the Old Testament is the first part of the Bible. Those stories are from before Jesus was born. Do you remember any stories about Moses or Elijah we learned about in the fall? [Answers will vary.]**
2. **God chose Moses to lead the people out of slavery in Egypt and through the Red Sea. God gave Moses the Ten Commandment on a mountain like the one in our story today.**
3. **Elijah was a prophet. He told people what God wanted them to know. Elijah stayed with a widow in a town called Zarephath, and her jars of flour and oil never ran out! Through his words and actions, he pointed people to God.**
4. **In Jesus' time, a lot of people called the Bible, what we call the Old Testament, the Law and the Prophets.**
5. **In today's story, Moses and Elijah appear next to Jesus and talk to him. It was a miracle! Why was it a miracle? [Moses and Elijah had died a long time before this.]**
6. **Remembering the stories about Moses and Elijah, why do you think God brought these two to talk to Jesus? Accept all answers.**
7. Hand out the half sheets of Activity Sheet #3-22.A to each student and instruct them to color the lines on top of the mountain yellow and cut out the rectangle with images. If there is time, they can color the rest of the pictures.



8. Instruct students to fold the rectangles on the dotted line, pictures facing out. They will tape the straw in the middle of the plain side of the paper and then tape the two halves shut. They should look like popsicles when they are finished.
9. Show the students that when they spin the straw between their palms, they will see the two images transform into one.
10. **Moses is like the mountain. He told the people about God's law, which is like a solid foundation. Elijah was like the yellow light. He pointed people toward the truth of God. When those two images connect with the outline of Jesus, they show a change or transformation.**

Learning the Story (PK-2nd; 10 minutes)

You've Got to Move It, Move It

Explore the story through movement.

You will need:

- † Bible
- † Activity Sheet #3-22.B
- † Optional: children's story Bible

Before class:

1. Print one copy of Activity Sheet #3-22.B for each student to take home.
2. You can find the story of the transfiguration in a children's story Bible and use this instead of reading from your preferred Bible translation.

During class:

1. Gather the students and sit in a circle. Read through today's story of the transfiguration in Luke 9:28-45.
2. After the students hear the story, they will follow the instructions on Activity #3-22.B which will tell the story in a fun interactive way that gets the kids moving.
3. **In this story, follow the instructions for the movements. Begin the story standing up with plenty of room to move; after all, you've got to move it, move it!**
4. When done, give Activity Sheet #3-22.B to each student to take home.

Living the Story (PK-2nd; 10 minutes)

Flashlight Prayer

Pray with light.

You will need:

- † Flashlights

Before class:

1. Find a location where the room will be dark.

During class:

1. Gather students and say: **When Jesus was on the mountaintop, he glowed so brightly that everyone there knew that something special was happening. Today, we are going to pray in a special way with a bright light. In a moment we are going to hand each of you a flashlight and turn the lights off. We will all say a prayer together while turning our flashlights on. Are you ready?**
2. Hand out flashlights to each student. If there are some students who are nervous or scared of the dark, you can turn one flashlight on and leave it on the whole time. Say the following prayers, or create your own. Make sure to turn the flashlights on when praying and off when not. Encourage students to pray too.
3. **Dear God, thank you for sending your Son to be the light of the world. Amen.**
4. **Dear God, please help us to help others. Amen.**
5. **Dear God, please be with _____ (Name the students in the class). Amen.**
6. **Dear God, _____ (Students take turns filling in the blank). Amen.**

Singing the Story (PK-2nd; 5 minutes)

Jesus Transformed

Sing a piggyback song to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It.”

A big, bright light covered Jesus, clap your hands (clap your hands)
A big, bright light covered Jesus, clap your hands (clap your hands)
Three disciples saw this happen, and their faces surely showed it.
A big bright light covered Jesus, clap your hands (clap your hands)

A big cloud covered Jesus, stomp your feet (stomp your feet)
A big cloud covered Jesus, stomp your feet (stomp your feet)
Moses and Elijah were there, and his face had surely showed it.
A big cloud covered Jesus, stomp your feet (stomp your feet)

Jesus healed a sick boy, pat your head (pat your head)
Jesus healed a sick boy, pat your head (pat your head)
All were amazed and said God’s good, and their faces surely showed it.
Jesus healed the sick boy, pat your head (pat your head).

Additional Activities

Dazzling White (1st-2nd; 10 minutes)

Transfiguration glitter craft.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #3-22.C
- † Black construction paper
- † White crayons
- † White or silver glitter
- † Paper plates
- † Glue
- † Scissors
- † Optional: glitter glue

Before class:

1. Print one copy of Activity Sheet #3-22.C for every four students.
2. You can use white or silver glitter glue instead.

During class:

1. Gather students and say: **Jesus looked dazzling white when he was on the mountain in our story today. We are going to make a craft to remind us of this story.**
2. Hand students a black piece of construction paper each. Ask students to write their name on the back with white crayon.
3. Students will then cut out and glue the words from Activity Sheet #3-22.C on the bottom of the paper.
4. Have them use a white crayon and draw a large cross on the black paper. Use glue and white or silver glitter to fill in the cross. Shake the loose glitter onto paper plates.

A Great Cloud (PK-2nd; 10 minutes)

Making a cloud science experiment.

You will need:

- † Ice
- † Glass jar with lid
- † Water
- † Electric kettle
- † Oven mitts
- † Aerosol spray

Before class:

1. Start the electric kettle with water. If you do not have an electric kettle, determine a safe way to boil and transport water. An extra helper may be needed.
2. The aerosol spray can be anything that is clear and non-toxic, like hairspray.
3. Try this activity before doing it in front of the students.

During class:

1. Gather students and say: **In today's story we hear about God's voice coming from a great cloud saying, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" Do you know how clouds are made? They are made when very tiny droplets of water gather together in the sky. We are going to make a cloud in this jar (hold up jar). I have some supplies here and we are going to do a science experiment to see if we can make a cloud.**
2. Fill glass jar half way with boiling water. Place the lid on top of the jar upside down so that the lid will not screw on. Fill the lid with ice. Observe what is happening to the water inside the jar.
3. **What is going on? [The boiling water is giving off water vapor. The ice creates a colder area for the water vapor to condense into steam.] It is starting to look like a cloud. I wonder if we can make it look even more like a cloud. Do you think we can?**
4. Remove the lid and quickly spray a bit of the aerosol spray into the glass jar. Quickly replace the lid. The leader can remove the lid at any time and watch the cloud escape. When you remove the lid, say, **"This is my Son, my Chosen. Listen to him!"** Instruct the students to repeat the key verse after you.

Healing the Boy (PK-2nd; 10 minutes)

Race to heal the boy.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #3-22.D
- † Envelopes
- † Adhesive bandages
- † Mural paper
- † Tape

Before class:

1. Print off two sets of Activity Sheet #3-22.D and tear into equal pieces. Place each torn copy of Activity Sheet #3-22.D into separate envelopes. Tape two large pieces of mural paper to the wall on opposite sides of the room.
2. You may remove the outer wrapping of the adhesive bandages beforehand to save time.

During class:

1. Gather students and say: **After Jesus came down from the mountain, he healed a boy whose heart and mind felt very broken. We are going to form two teams and race to see who can help heal the broken boy.**
2. Split the group into two teams. You will be given an envelope and adhesive bandages to put the boy back together on the large piece of mural paper on the wall. Use the adhesive bandages like tape to put the pieces together.
3. When done say: **That was fast! Great job. Was it a bit tricky using the adhesive bandages, or was it easy? Do you think it was hard for Jesus to heal the broken boy or easy?**

Bible Book (PK-2nd; 5 minutes)

Optional ongoing activity.

You will need:

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Markers or crayons
- † Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Before class:

1. Make copies of this week's Bible Book page on cardstock or copy paper for each student.

During class:

1. Pass out Bible Book pages.
2. Read the bottom of the Bible Book page aloud, reminding students of what they learned in the lesson.
3. Have them put their names on their pages, and draw a picture of something they particularly liked or remember from story in the middle of the page.
4. Optional: Collect and three-hole punch the pages, and put them in individual binders for each student to be kept at church until the end of the year. If you wish, you can investigate other options for binding the Bible books through a local print shop at the end of the year instead of using a three-ring binder.

Sending the Story (PK-2nd; 5 minutes)

Today's story connects stories from the Old Testament, the first part of the Bible, to a story from the New Testament, the second part of the Bible. The Old Testament stories are about Moses and the law and Elijah and the prophets. The New Testament story is about the transfiguration of Jesus.

Prayer

Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

You will need:

- † Mural paper
- † Marker
- † Tape
- † Construction paper

Before class:

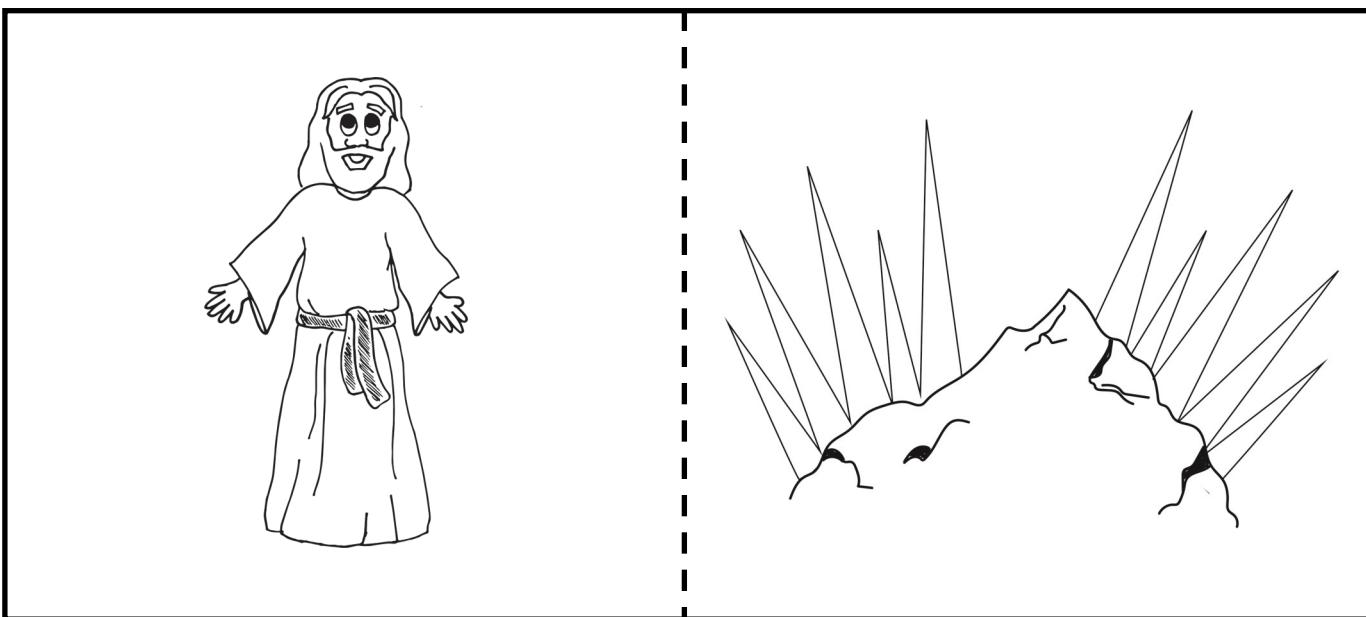
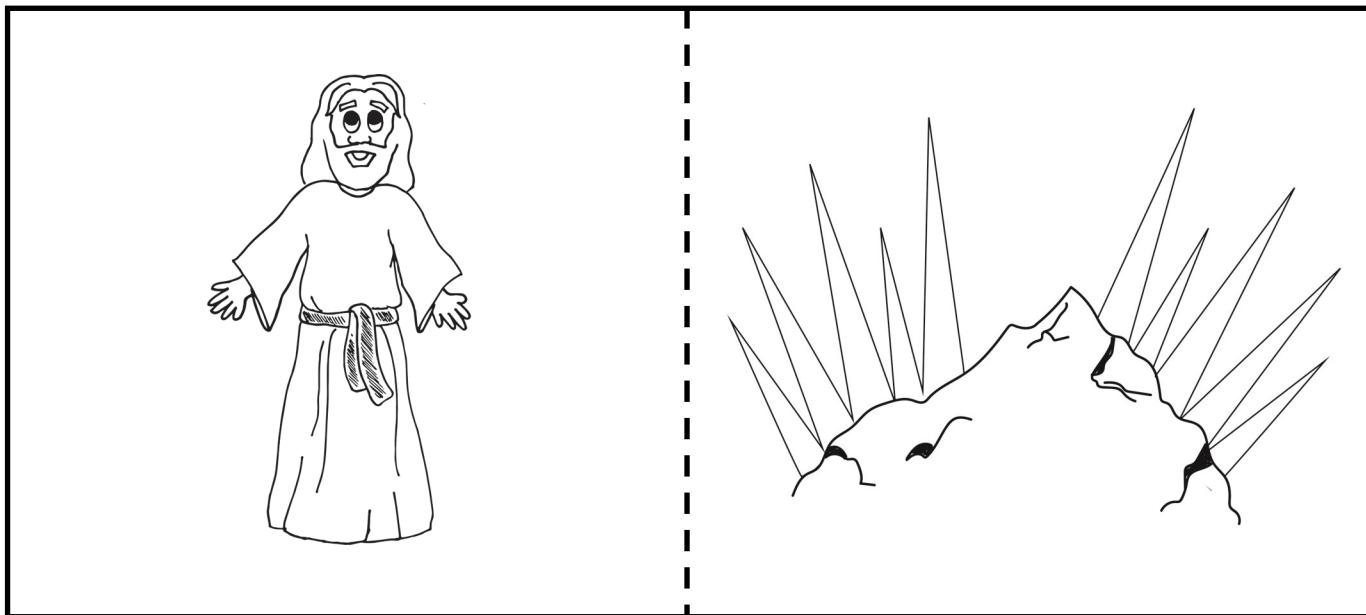
1. Take a large piece of mural paper and draw a cross in the middle. This can be taped to a wall or laid on a table or floor.
2. Tear construction paper into one to two inch pieces.

During class:

1. **We are going to pray a prayer for healing and forgiveness. We want to be transformed, or changed, from our old selves into something shiny and new.**
2. **I will give you each a piece of torn and broken construction paper. One at a time, you will come up to the cross on this paper and tape your piece while saying a prayer. We will transform our torn pieces and make them into a beautiful new picture.**

Law+Prophet=Messiah

Create an optical illusion.



You've Got to Move It, Move It

Exploring the story through movement.

One day, Jesus took three of his friends, Peter, John, and James, with him to pray. (Fold your hands like you are praying.)

While they were praying, (Kneel to the floor.)

Jesus' face started to change. (Jump up, and place your hands over your face, then move them away.)

His clothes became bright like a flash of lightning. (While saying "zap," clap your hands one time, loudly.)

Two men, Moses and Elijah, (Move and find a buddy so that everyone is two by two.)

appeared and talked to Jesus. (Move and find a group of three.)

They talked about Jesus dying on the cross. (Lift your arms straight out to make a cross shape.)

Peter, John, and James were very sleepy. (Find room and lay on the ground like you are sleeping.)

They woke up (Jump to your feet.)

and saw the two men talking to Jesus. (Make a surprised look on your face.)

Peter thought they should all stay there and make tents. (Pretend to build something.)

Suddenly, a cloud appeared around them, (Put your hands over your eyes.)

And they were really scared. (Make a scared face.)

God's voice spoke, saying, "This is my Son, listen to him!" (Put a hand up to your ear as if listening.)

They all left knowing that something special had happened. (Everyone have a big group hug.)

Dazzling White

Transfiguration glitter craft.

“His clothes became dazzling white.”

Jesus is revealed as God’s Son, the Messiah,
who has come to serve and inspire service in us.

“His clothes became dazzling white.”

Jesus is revealed as God’s Son, the Messiah,
who has come to serve and inspire service in us.

“His clothes became dazzling white.”

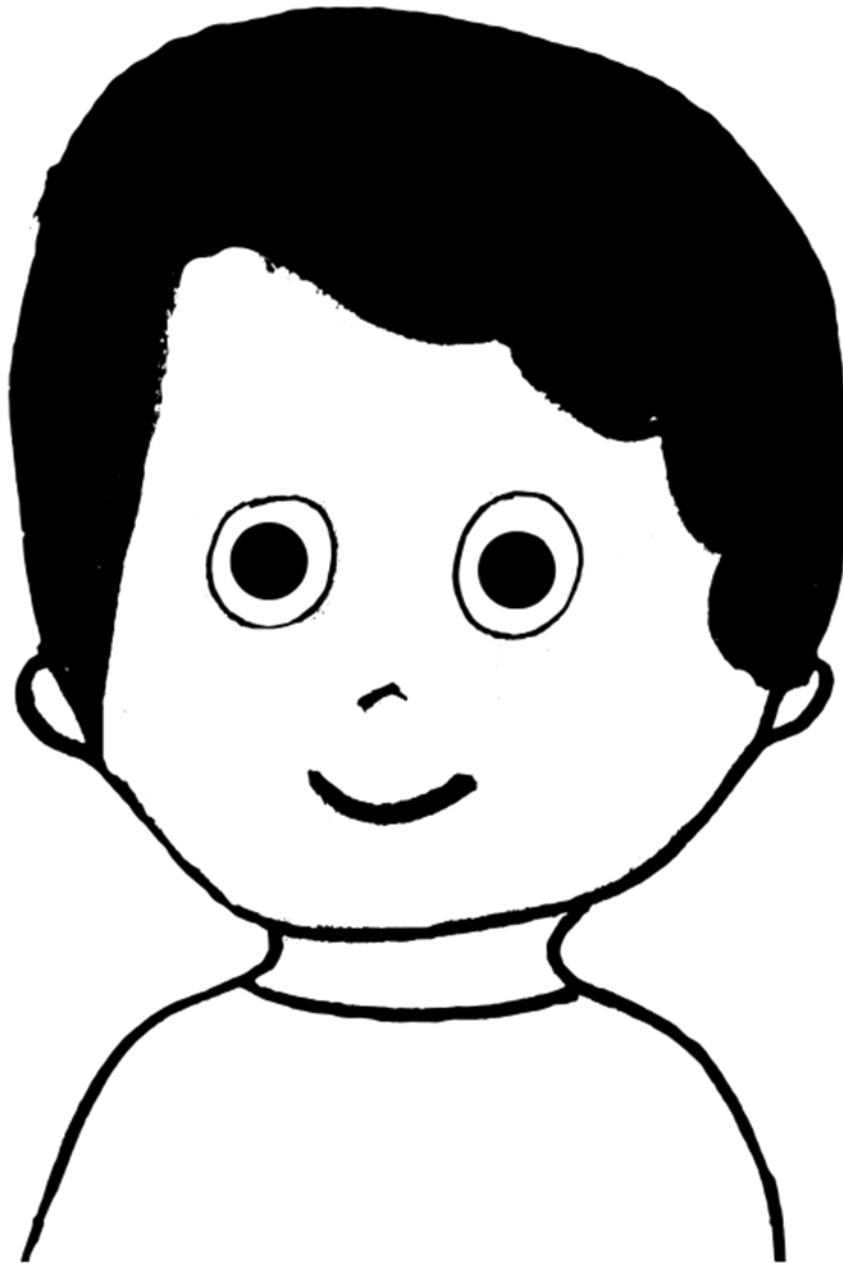
Jesus is revealed as God’s Son, the Messiah,
who has come to serve and inspire service in us.

“His clothes became dazzling white.”

Jesus is revealed as God’s Son, the Messiah,
who has come to serve and inspire service in us.

Healing the Boy

Racing to heal the boy.



The Transfiguration

Luke 9:28-45

The Point:

The Messiah has come to serve and calls us to serve others.



The Story @ Home

PK-2nd

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2020-2021)

Lesson #3-22
Luke 9:28-45

Last Week

A Roman commander sends people to Jesus, asking him to heal his servant by giving the command from far away, which Jesus does. Soon after, Jesus raises a dead man so he can take care of his mother (Luke 7:1-17).

This Week

Jesus takes three disciples up a mountain. Suddenly, he becomes dazzlingly white and Moses and Elijah appear next to him. God declares that Jesus is God's Son, and the disciples should listen to him (Luke 9:28-45).

The Point

The Messiah has come to serve and calls us to serve others.

Story Summary

The Transfiguration

Jesus takes Peter, John, and James to the mountaintop to pray. While they are praying, Jesus is transformed and his clothing becomes a dazzling white. The disciples see Moses and Elijah talking to Jesus. Peter thinks that it might be a good idea to make three tents: one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. Then, a cloud comes and overshadows them. God speaks and announces Jesus as God's Son and Chosen One. After the healing of the boy who is tormented and oppressed by a demon, Jesus begins his journey toward the cross. The end of this week leads into our journey through Lent.

Bible Nuts & Bolts

Old Testament References

Much of the significance of the transfiguration depends on our knowledge of the Old Testament. This story makes a clear connection between the identity of Jesus and the history of the Jewish people. Moses represents the people's freedom from slavery and the giving of the law. Elijah is a prophet who spoke God's words and performed God's actions. Jesus' own transfiguration shows God's glory as the glory of the Son who came to deliver the people not through might, but through service.

Practice: Prayer

It is through prayer that we communicate with God and God communicates with us. It can be done anyone, anywhere. Prayer can be used in happy times and in sad times. There are many ways we can pray. A fun way to pray is to take some time looking through photos of our family and praying for them.

Next Week

Jesus tells the Parable of the Good Samaritan, in which a person cares for his enemy. Then, Jesus visits sisters Mary and Martha and encourages Martha to rest from her work, sit, and listen to him (Luke 10:25-42).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- † What are some stories that you remember about Moses?
- † What are some stories that you remember about Elijah?
- † What did God say inside the cloud? Why do you think God said this?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Luke 9:28-45

Jesus is transfigured on the mountain with Moses and Elijah, and Jesus heals a boy who was possessed by a demon. Focus on prayer by going into a dark room and lighting a flashlight while praying together.

Monday—Read Isaiah 55:1-3

Isaiah reminds us of the invitation of abundant life we have in Jesus. The invitation is to follow Jesus and not just things. Discuss who might be a good person or people to invite to church. Make an invitation and deliver it, inviting them to join you at church or a church event.

Tuesday—Read Luke 9:46-50

The disciples argued over who would be the greatest. Jesus reminded them that the one who welcomes even the littlest child welcomes Jesus and that the least will be the greatest. Make a list of some of the youngest people in your family and in your congregation. Spend time praying for them.

Wednesday—Read Luke 9:51-62

Jesus prepares for his ascension to heaven. Jesus warns of the cost of being a disciple. Spend some time praying for those who are imprisoned for their faith around the world.

Thursday—Read Luke 10:1-12

Jesus sends out seventy-two people to tell the good news. Jesus reminds them to go from house to house and spread peace to the homes. Make a peace offering for your neighbors. A peace offering can be a plate of cookies, a drawing from the family, or any kind gesture.

Friday—Read Luke 10:17-20

The seventy-two Jesus sent returned with joy. Have a joyous dance party!

Saturday—Read Luke 10:21-24

Jesus prays out loud to God. Play a game of hide and seek. After you play, remind each other about the things God hides and the things God reveals to us.