

Lesson #3-22

The Transfiguration

Luke 9:28-45

3rd-6th

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

Into the Story

Transfiguration Tag

Tag, you are transformed.

10 min.

Supplies

† Flashlight

Bible Nuts & Bolts

Walking Water

Experiment with transformation.

10 min.

† Glass jars
 † Water
 † Food coloring; blue and yellow
 † Paper towels

Learning the Story

A Bright Highlight

Learning the story with Bibles.

10 min.

† Bibles
 † Highlighters
 † Miniature figures
 † Building blocks
 † White board
 † Marker
 † Optional: printed copies of the Bible passage

Living the Story

Glow Stick Prayer

Praying with light.

10 min.

† Glow sticks
 † Clear bowl with water

Activities a la Carte

Additional Activities

Dazzling White Magnet

Magnet craft to remind us of the transfiguration.

10 min.

- † Activity Sheet #3-22.A
- † Yellow and white felt
- † Pens
- † Scissors
- † Magnets
- † Craft glue
- † Optional: card stock

A Great Cloud

Making a cloud science experiment.

10 min.

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

Lights, Camera, Mini-Action

Miniature figures in film.

10 min.

- † Bible
- † Video camera
- † Miniature creation scene from Learning the Story

Bible Book

Optional ongoing activity.

5 min.

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

Sending the Story

5 min.

- † Large piece of craft paper
- † Marker
- † Glue sticks
- † Torn pieces of craft 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



Into the Story (10 minutes)

Transfiguration Tag

Tag, you are transformed!

You will need:

- † Flashlight

Before class:

1. Find a location with plenty of room for students to move in the dark.

During class:

1. 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 by pointing my flashlight on you. When I tag someone with the beam of light, two more people must run up to the student who was tagged, join hands, and hold their hands high in the sky to be freed.**
2. **Some rules are that the leader has to count out loud to five after tagging someone before trying to tag someone else. And a group of three cannot be tagged.** You can decide whether this rule applies only to groups of three formed by freeing someone, or if untagged students can gather in groups of three to be safe to begin with.
3. **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.
4. 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 (10 minutes)

Walking Water Transformation

Experiment with transformation.

You will need:

- † Glass jars
- † Water
- † Food coloring: blue and yellow
- † Paper towels

During class:

1. Place materials in the middle of the table and gather students. Put all three glass jars in a line touching each other. Say: **The first jar reminds us of the law, Moses.** Students can help pour the water into the first jar and add a few drops of blue. **The second jar in the middle will be Jesus.** **The third jar on the end reminds us of Elijah who was a prophet.** Students can help pour water into the third jar and add a few drops of yellow. **The Old Testament gives many references to the Messiah, Jesus.**
2. **These paper towels are like the Old Testament, connecting Moses and Elijah with Jesus.** Instruct a student to fold two paper towels to make a 3-4 inch wide fold. Then place one end of the paper towel in the first jar (blue) and the other end in the middle empty jar. Then place the second paper towel so that one end is in the third jar (yellow) and the other end in the middle empty jar. Note, if the water is not moving up the paper towels quickly, stick the whole paper towel in the appropriate jar to get the water moving.
3. While some of the colored water from the first and third jar move into the middle jar, say: **Moses and Elijah were very important people in the Old Testament. Remember, the Old Testament is the first part of the Bible, with the stories that happened before Jesus was born. Do you remember any stories about Moses or Elijah? [Answers will vary.]**
4. **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.**

5. 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.
6. In today's story, Moses and Elijah play a role in making a new relationship between God and the people, this time through Jesus. We are transformed, but we are already made in God's image. The Spirit renews God's image in us. Jesus does so much to serve us and show God's love. We are called to serve others in response to what Jesus has done for us.

Learning the Story (10 minutes)

A Bright Highlight

Learn the story with Bibles.

You will need:

- † Bibles
- † Highlighters
- † Miniature figures
- † Building blocks
- † White board
- † Marker
- † Optional: printed copies of the Bible passage

Before class:

1. If students do not have their own Bibles they can mark in, print or copy today's text so that each student has one. It is preferred that you have a personal Bible that you mark in.
2. Write on the white board "Luke 9:28-32," "Luke 9:33-36," and "Luke 9:37-43."

During class:

1. Gather students and say: **In today's story we will hear about a bright light** (hold up the highlighter). **That is why we need these. We will use them to make the story from Luke 9:28-45 bright. Remember, Luke is one of the four Gospels. Can anyone name all of the Gospels? [Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.] When we are done reading and marking our Bibles, we will split up into three groups and build three different scenes out of these building blocks and miniature figures.**
2. Have students open their Bibles and say: **Any time you see the words Moses, Elijah, Jesus, or bright light, use your highlighter and mark them.** As a group, take turns reading through the passage and remind students when to highlight.
3. Assign groups one of the Scripture passages written on the white board. Split the students up into groups and instruct them to build scenes based on their Scripture passage. Scripture passages are:
 - Luke 9:28-32
 - Luke 9:33-36
 - Luke 9:37-43
4. When done, have the students talk about what they created. Save the creations to use in the Lights, Camera, Mini-Action activity.

Living the Story (5 minutes)

Glow Stick Prayer

Praying with light.

You will need:

- † Glow sticks
- † Clear bowl with water

Before class:

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

During class:

1. Gather students and say while holding the glow sticks: **What do I have in my hands? [Glow sticks.] These glow sticks are going to help us pray. I am going to hand one out to each of you and you will break it and shake it to make it glow.** Hand out glow sticks and instruct students to bend the glow stick and shake it to make it glow.
2. When done, turn off lights and say: **Hide your glow sticks.** Leaders leave their glow stick out and hold up in the air. **I have my glow stick and it is bright, but I wonder what would happen if we all hold them up. Do you think it will be brighter or darker? [Brighter.]** Instruct students to hold their glow sticks up in the air.
3. When we pray together we can hear each other's prayer and help each other out. **We can help each other by praying for one another throughout the week as well as checking in to see how things are going.**
4. **We are going to use this clear bowl of water and we will each say a prayer out loud and place your glow stick in the bowl of water.** Instruct each student to say a prayer. A sample format can be, Dear God, please help/thank you for _____. Amen.
5. When students have all prayed and placed their glow sticks in the bowl say: **When Jesus was on the mountaintop, he was shining so brightly that everyone who saw it knew that something special was happening. The bowl of water shows us how our prayers together can become brighter.** The clear bowl full of water will help magnify the glow sticks.

Additional Activities

Dazzling White Magnet (10 minutes)

Magnet craft to remind us of the transfiguration.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet #3-22.A
- † Yellow and white felt
- † Pens
- † Scissors
- † Magnets
- † Craft glue
- † Optional: card stock

Before class:

1. Print one copy of Activity Sheet #3-22.A for every two students. Printing on cardstock will make the patterns easier to trace.

During class:

1. Gather students and say: **The story today is a great one, and one that we need to remember. We are going to make a magnet that will remind us of how Jesus looked dazzling white when he was on the mountain top.**
2. Hand out Activity Sheet #3-22.A along with yellow and white felt. Instruct students to cut out the shapes on the activity sheet. Then they will trace the shapes onto the felt with the pen and cut the felt out.
3. Once the felt is cut out, glue the white felt with the Jesus image on top of the yellow felt. Then glue the magnet on the back.
4. When done say: **Place this magnet somewhere in your house to help remind you of how great and amazing God is.**

A Great Cloud (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. You may want to 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? Is the water starting to turn 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 the leader removes the lid, say, **"This is my Son, my Chosen. Listen to him!"** Instruct the students to repeat the key verse after you.

Lights, Camera, Mini-Action (10 minutes)

Miniature figures in film.

You will need:

- † Bible
- † Video camera
- † Miniature creation scene from Learning the Story

During class:

1. Gather students and say: **I love being able to see stories in new ways. We are going to use the miniature figure scenes we made in Learning the Story and record the story. We will each take a job either recording, setting up the scenes and miniature figures, or reading the Scripture for each scene** (Luke 9:28-32, Luke 9:33-36, and Luke 9:37-43). Encourage the students to be creative.
2. When done, share the video with parents and others in accordance with your congregation's policies on privacy and social media use.

Bible Book (5 minutes)

Optional ongoing activity.

You will need:

- † Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- † Cardstock or plain paper
- † Pens or pencils
- † 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. Hand out Bible Book pages.
2. **What are some of the important things we have learned from today's story?**
[Answers will vary.]
3. **On the bottom of your page, please write one or two important things that you have learned from the story today. In the middle of the page, draw a picture from the story or illustrate one of the important things you've learned. Don't forget to put your name on the back of the page, please!**
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 (5 minutes)

Today's story connects a story from the Old Testament, the first half of the Bible, to a story from the New Testament, the second half 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:

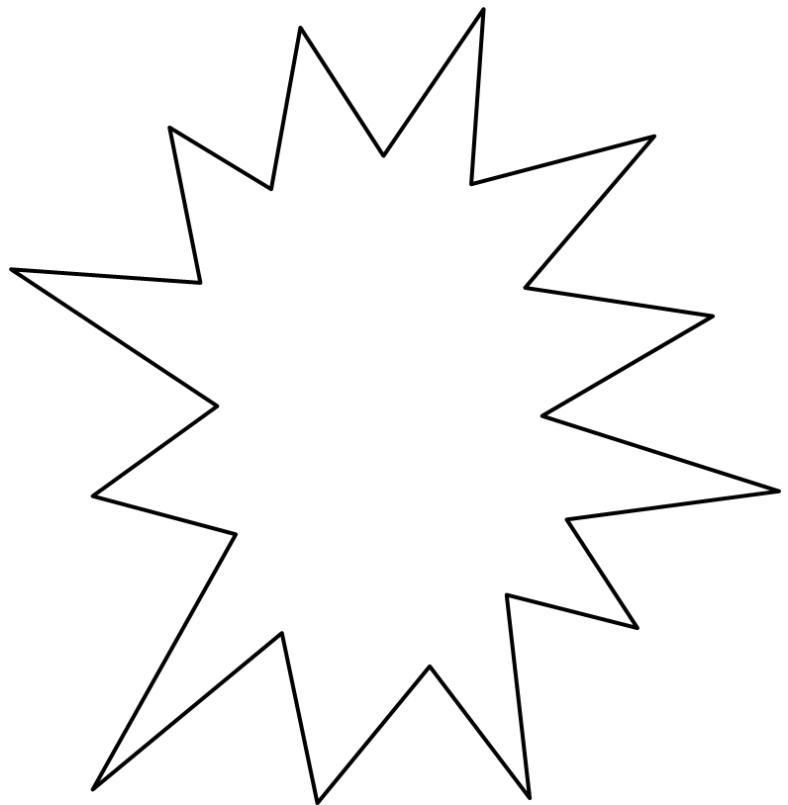
1. Take a large piece of mural paper and draw a cross in the middle. This can be taped to a wall or laid on a table or floor.
2. Tear construction paper into one to two inch pieces.

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 onto it while saying a prayer. We will transform our torn pieces and make them into a beautiful new picture.

Dazzling White Magnet

Magnet craft to remind us of the transfiguration.



The Transfiguration

Luke 9:28-45

I Learned:



3rd - 6th

The Story @ Home

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.