

LESSON 24

The Transfiguration

MARK 9:2-13



BIBLE TRUTH

JESUS GAVE UP HIS HEAVENLY GLORY TO TAKE OUR SINS UPON THE CROSS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. **OPENING REVIEW** **5 MIN**
Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.
2. **BIBLE STORY** **10 MIN**
Read Mark 9:1–13 from the Scriptures or read story 102, “The Transfiguration,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.
3. **OBJECT LESSON 1** **15 MIN**
Peter’s Costume
SUPPLIES:
✓ a simple costume made of a flat sheet and rope for a belt
4. **TEACHING/DISCUSSION** **10 MIN**
Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.
5. **OBJECT LESSON 2** **10 MIN**
The Amazing Brightness of God’s Glory
SUPPLIES:
✓ transparent 40-watt incandescent lightbulb (no white paint so you can see the filament)
✓ table lamp without a shade
✓ extension cord if needed
6. **SWORD BIBLE MEMORY** **5 MIN**
7. **ACTIVITY TIME** **15 MIN**
Radiant Light
SUPPLIES:
✓ white pencils, chalk, and black construction paper
8. **CLOSING PRAYER** **5 MIN**
9. **BONUS OBJECT LESSON** **15 MIN**
Jesus’ Riddle

TOTAL 90 MIN

PREPARING TO TEACH

TEACHING POINTS

Jesus revealed his glory—Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on a mountain. These three men were brought there to witness the glory of God in Christ. Luke tells us that as the Lord prayed, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes began to radiate in glorious splendor (Luke 9:3). By revealing his glory, Jesus demonstrated that he could remanifest his glorious power at any moment. This confirms that Jesus went to the cross freely and willingly, as a lamb led to the slaughter (Isaiah 53:7). Elijah and Moses appeared with Jesus, representing the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Though obviously having never before seen them, the disciples seemed to immediately recognize who they were.

The Father affirmed his Son—The disciples were terrified by Jesus’ transfiguration and the display of glory. Not knowing what to do, but wanting to come up with something, Peter suggested that they build three shelters, or memorials, one each for Jesus, Elijah, and Moses. But Elijah and Moses were in no way equals with Jesus. While Peter was still speaking, Matthew records that a cloud came down and covered them (Matthew 17:5). Out from the cloud, interrupting Peter, came the voice of the Father to settle the matter. Three shelters would not be necessary, because they were to listen to the Son. When the cloud vanished, Moses and Elijah were gone and only Jesus remained.

Jesus gave up his glory to go to the cross—After God the Father spoke to affirm his Son, the cloud lifted and only Jesus remained. Once again, with the radiance of his glory hidden under the cloak of his full humanity, he stood beside the disciples. Soon Jesus would be arrested and though he could call legions of angels to defend him (Matthew 26:53), Jesus would instead be arrested and lay down his life willingly (John 10:18) as a sacrifice for our sins. With the transfiguration complete, the disciples tried futilely to make sense of it all. Jesus told them “to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead” (Mark 9:9).

Where Is the Gospel? _____

How does today’s Bible story fit into God’s greater plan of redemption?

Here, in a moment of time, three of the disciples had the opportunity to glimpse the holiness, glory, and power of Jesus as God. They knew Jesus, the man, but they didn’t know Jesus the Son in glory. If Jesus was not both fully God and fully man, he could not have taken our punishment on the cross and then risen from the dead. Here on the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus revealed his glorious splendor as the Son of God. Yet once again, Jesus “made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:7–8).

Jesus was resolute. He would take the penalty for our sins upon himself and die a cursed death on the cross. After the transfiguration, Jesus gave his disciples strict orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until he had risen from the dead. They could not understand all that had been revealed by his transfiguration. They didn’t understand what Jesus meant by being raised from the dead. Later they would come to understand more fully that God the Son, Jesus, had come down to earth to take on human flesh that he might die for the sins of man and be raised on the third day to new life in victory over sin and death.

THE LESSON

OPENING REVIEW 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read Mark 9:1–13 from the Scriptures or read story 102, “The Transfiguration,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

OBJECT LESSON 1 15 MIN

Peter's Costume

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ a simple costume made of a flat sheet and rope for a belt

Retell the story of the transfiguration from Peter's perspective. Tell it as though you are Peter remembering how amazing it was.

Some things you can add:

How hard it was not to tell the other disciples when they returned.

How the rising from the dead part all made sense after the resurrection, but how they were confused and tried to treat Moses, Elijah, and Jesus equally.

How amazing it was to see Jesus in his glory and how even more amazing it was to realize he gave up that glory to die for us on the cross.

How much Peter is looking forward to heaven when Jesus will light up all the heavens with his glory.

TEACHING/DISCUSSION 10 MIN

Using the teaching points, teach through the lesson for today.

OBJECT LESON 2 10 MIN

The Amazing Brightness of God's Glory

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ transparent 40-watt incandescent lightbulb (no white paint so you can see the filament)
- ✓ table lamp without a shade
- ✓ extension cord if needed

Screw the lightbulb into the lamp. Set the lamp near an electrical outlet and turn the lamp on, but do not plug it in. Recruit an adult volunteer to plug the lamp in when you give the signal later in the illustration.

Ask the children if they have ever looked inside a lightbulb. Explain to them that when the electrical current travels through the filament, it glows. All the air is taken out of the bulb to ensure that the filament does not burn up. See if you can interest them in the details of the lightbulb. Give everyone a chance to look at it closely.

Tell them the lightbulb is like Jesus' ministry on earth. Jesus gave up his glory and became a man so that we could get to know God through him, just like we can get to know the lightbulb when it is off.

Explain that if God were to appear in his glory, we would not be able to look at him. Tell the children to look at the lightbulb again and while they are not prepared have an assistant plug in the lamp. Watch their reaction. They should turn away because of the brightness. Talk about how the lightbulb is like Jesus and his transfiguration.

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5 MIN

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITY TIME 15 MIN

Radiant Light

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ white pencils, chalk, and black construction paper

Draw a picture of Jesus with radiant light. Use white pencils and chalk on black paper.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Pick several children to pray prayers based on the day's Scripture passages.

BONUS OBJECT LESSON 15 MIN

Jesus' Riddle

Ask the class if they can guess the riddle that Jesus told the disciples when they came down the mountain. (Jesus said that the Son of Man would rise from the dead and "Elijah does come

first to restore all things. And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt? But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him” [Mark 9:9, 12–13].).

There are two parts to the riddle. Once the class guesses them correctly, write them on the board.

1. The Son of Man must suffer and die and then rise from the dead.
2. Elijah has come.

Ask the class to see if they can solve the two parts of the riddle and tell you what they mean. The first part is easier—Jesus is the Son of Man who would die on the cross and then rise again on the third day. Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.

The answer to the second part is that John the Baptist is the Elijah who came. If the class can't get this part, tell them to look at Matthew 11:14 for the answer to the riddle. (Jesus had already taught the disciples that John was the Elijah to come.)

Finally ask the class what the following phrase means: “they did to [Elijah] whatever they pleased” (verse 13). (See Matthew 14:3–12 for the answer about how John was persecuted by Herod.)

LESSON 24 - THE TRANSFIGURATION

