



2nd Sunday of Lent

Matthew 17: 1-9

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."

Some things to think about...

- How would you react if you were one of the disciples who witnessed these events?
- In this story, God tells the disciples how proud He is of His son, and that they should listen to Him.
- Why do you think Peter wanted to make tents on the mountain?

Peter wants to build tents so they can stay on the mountain and keep this amazing moment going. But he doesn't fully understand what is happening. Jesus is God's chosen one, and he still has an important mission to complete—even though it will be difficult and involve suffering. The Transfiguration (the change of appearance or form) is a special moment for the closest of Jesus' disciples as they catch a glimpse of who Jesus really is, the Son of God, although they don't really understand this.

Activity

Ask the children the following question: *Can you think of a special moment in your life that encouraged or inspired you? Maybe a time when you felt really happy, peaceful, brave—or especially close to God?* The children can write these ideas on their 'Mountain Moments' worksheet and think about how they can carry these into their week ahead so as not to 'stay on the mountain'. They shouldn't be afraid as God will always be with them as they move forward.

Materials needed

- 'Mountain Moments' worksheet
- Pens/pencils

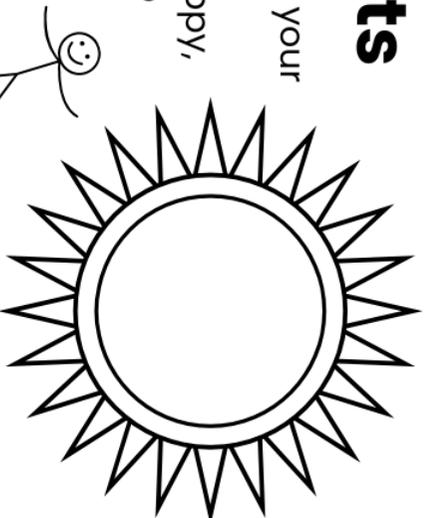
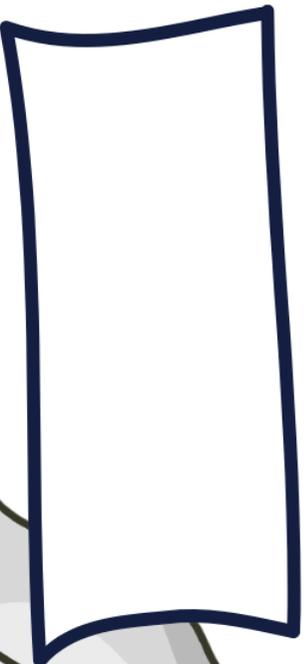
Teacher's Notes

The Transfiguration is a key moment in the Gospels. It gives us a glimpse of who Jesus is and echoes the words from the Father at Jesus' baptism, 'This is my Son the beloved.' This is a special moment for the closest of Jesus' disciples, Peter, James and John, who often share particular moments with him. The passage is full of symbolism that points to who Jesus is, the Son of God, the long-awaited Messiah. It was believed that when Elijah and Moses appeared that this would be the beginning of the Messianic Age. Peter wants to build tents and to hold onto this moment but he has misunderstood as Jesus is a Messiah who has to suffer and die. The Transfiguration is a glimpse of what is to come but they cannot stay on the mountain; Jesus has a mission from the Father to fulfil. This is an overwhelming moment for the disciples but Jesus reassures them and tells them not to be afraid.

Mountain Moments

Can you think of a special moment in your life that encouraged or inspired you? Maybe a time when you felt really happy, peaceful, brave—or especially close to God?

A special moment...



We can't stay on the mountain. We walk back down changed.



How I will carry this into my week...

