

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 ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: table lamp with removable lamp shade

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 102)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES: coloring page for NT Lesson 24—one for each child; markers or crayons

Really White

SUPPLIES: three sheets of white copy paper in various shades of white

Brighter Than Bleaching

SUPPLIES: small dropper or squeeze bottle of laundry bleach; piece of red cotton cloth; plastic drop cloth if you have carpeting in your classroom area

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn how Jesus was transfigured on the mountain.

Bring a table lamp (a lamp with a removable lamp shade) to class for this opening activity. It will serve as a great illustration of what it means to be transfigured.

Turn off the normal classroom lights. Have the children sit around the lamp (plugged in but turned off) while you remove the lamp shade. Have the children look at the bulb and ask them to describe it. Then, while the children are looking at (not touching) the bulb, turn on the lamp. Have them describe the change and how it is much more difficult to look at because it is so bright.

Tell the children that you are going to read a story today about how Jesus turned on like a light bulb! Of course, Jesus wasn't a lightbulb, Jesus was God and chose not to show his glorious light. But on this special day that we call the transfiguration (repeat the word several times), Jesus let his glory shine. He was so bright that his light was described as lightning (Luke 9:29 NIV).

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 102, "The Transfiguration," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What happened in this story?**
(Jesus took Peter, James, and John up to a mountain and showed them his glory.)
- **Where did the brightness come from?**
(The brightness came from Jesus himself. He is all-powerful and glorious, but he gave up his glory to become a man.)

- **Who spoke out from the cloud?**
(God the Father spoke out from the cloud.)

SNACK QUESTIONS **10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **What did God the Father tell Peter, James, and John they should do?**
(The voice of God from out of the cloud told the disciples they should “Listen to him.” That is, they should obey Jesus.)
- **What are some ways we can listen to Jesus today?**
(Young children can follow their parents’ instructions.)

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.

- **Where do parents find out how to lead their children?**

(Christian parents are supposed to lead from the Bible, which is God's Word.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5-10 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.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 24—one for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **What is happening to Jesus in the picture?**

(Jesus showed his glory to the disciples; his clothes became radiantly white.)

- **Who did the disciples see with Jesus?**

(Moses and Elijah)

- **Where did Moses and Elijah come from?**

(Moses and Elijah were long since dead. They must have come from heaven.)

Really White

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ three sheets of white paper in various shades of white (Compare sheets from your work, home, and/or office supply store, making sure you have one sheet of the brightest white you can find.)

Before class sort the sheets in order from dullest to brightest.

In class hold up the dullest sheet of white paper and ask the children what color the paper is. After showing it to them, tell them that in today's story Jesus' clothes

were really white—even whiter than the paper. Pull out the next whitest paper and show the children.

Then finally show them the very whitest paper. Remind the children that Jesus' clothes were even whiter than the whitest paper we can find.

Brighter Than Bleaching

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ small dropper or squeeze bottle of laundry bleach
- ✓ a piece of red cotton cloth
- ✓ a plastic drop cloth if you have carpeting in your classroom area.

Note: Before class test the bleach on the red cloth to make sure it whitens it.

The passage says that Jesus' clothes became radiantly, intensely white, whiter than anything on earth could bleach them. The children probably do not know what bleaching does to cloth. To demonstrate, take a red piece of cloth and squeeze a few drops of bleach onto it. Explain to the children that the bleach makes things white and takes away the color.

Read Isaiah 1:18. Point out that our sins are red as crimson but that God will make them white as snow. Use the illustration to explain that God, by the sacrifice of his Son, takes our sins (the red cloth) and makes them white as snow (the red cloth bleached white). Then draw the connection between the two passages. The one who transformed his own clothes brighter than the brightest white will also transform our hearts, taking away our sin.

CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

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