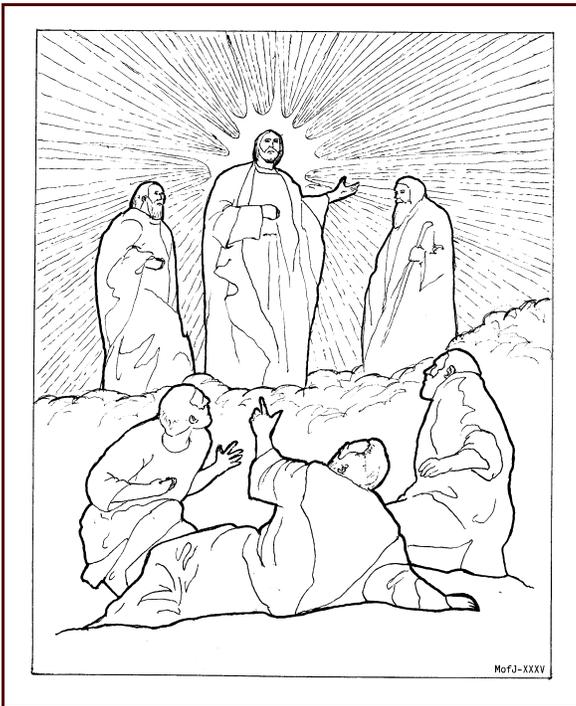


The Transfiguration

Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-10; Luke 9:28-36



Why did some people think Jesus was an earthly savior?

Do you know of any human who has shined like a light?

Why is it important to understand that Jesus is a heavenly Savior?

Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, we thank You that You sent Jesus to be our heavenly Savior. We know that You are pleased in Him because He saved us from our sins. Help us to remember that Jesus is Your Son. Help us also to be Your children and to do the things that please You. Amen

The Story - Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus was teaching the disciples that He was a heavenly Savior and not an earthly one. One question He asked them concerned whom they thought He was. Peter summed it up by saying through the Holy Spirit that Jesus was the Christ, the anointed Savior.

(1) Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James and John up into a high mountain to pray. While Jesus prayed, His appearance started to change. (2) He was transfigured. Instead of reflecting light, His face started to shine and give off light like the sun does. His robe also became white and glistening, whiter than snow, whiter than any

laundry could possibly make it. (3) Soon, Elijah and Moses stood next to Jesus. They were having a conversation about Jesus' departure and all the other things that would soon be happening in Jerusalem.

The disciples became sleepy as they listened. When they fully woke up, they saw Jesus' glory and the two men who stood with him. As Moses and Elijah were leaving, (4) Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."



(5) While he was saying this, a cloud came and covered the disciples and Jesus. The disciples were fearful as they entered the cloud. The voice of God the Father came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"

(6) And when they heard the voice, they were afraid. They fell down and covered their faces. (7) But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid."

(8) When they looked up, the cloud, Elijah, and Moses were all gone. They started down the mountain. Many people thought Jesus would be an earthly Savior, so (9) Jesus told His disciples to not tell about what they had seen until Jesus had risen from the dead.

The disciples did as Jesus asked. Even so, they wondered what He meant about rising from the dead.

What the Story Tells Us

1. Jesus took the three disciples, _____, _____, and _____ with Him to a high mountain to pray.
2. While He prayed, _____ and _____ suddenly appeared with Him.
3. Peter said he wanted to build _____ for them.
4. God's voice came out of a _____.
5. Jesus told His disciples to tell _____ what had happened.

Outer Aim - Jesus shows us the disciples He is the true God.

Discussion Questions - Mark each as (T)true or (F)alse

- _____ 1. Jesus will still be an earthly savior.
- _____ 2. Only God's Son could die and take away our sins.
- _____ 3. People are fearful in God's presence.
- _____ 4. We don't need to be afraid of God.
- _____ 5. Jesus truly is the Son of God.

Inner Aim - Jesus shows us He is our God and our Savior.

Passages

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 12:1-2 - Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Philippians 2:9 - Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Hymn - Read Hymn 135. What do we ask Jesus to do in stanza six?

Your Turn - Use ideas from the story, passages and hymn to help you complete the following questions.

How should you react when people remark about something you have done well?

How should your actions during the church service compare to how you live your life?

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, our imaginations try to grasp in a limited way what You must look like in all Your glory. We know that as sinners we would be terrified of Your holiness and how we have failed to be holy. But we also know Your great love. You laid aside Your glory to come to this earth as a human being and give Your holy life as payment for our sins. By faith, we glimpsed Your great love for us as we see You preparing for that expensive sacrifice for us. As You prepared and strengthened Your disciples to face the difficult months ahead, so strengthen our faith before and as we face the many tests in our lives so that our faith in You doesn't waver. Keep the image of Your love and the heavenly goal You have won for us before our eyes. As You have nourished us in faith, in the end we will see Your glory without the fear of our sins and may worship You for all eternity. We pray trusting in Your name, and in all You have revealed to us. Amen.