

Lesson Plans that Work
Year A – Last Sunday after Epiphany
Lesson Plans for Older Children

Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
(Book of Common Prayer, page 378)

Accept the light we have received and shine it forth! It is not about shining the light in other's faces, blinding them, but holding the light in open hands.

A Notation for This Week's Gospel

Mountaintop experiences! Moses received the Law — to obey. Jesus is revealed as the person — to follow.

Theme: The Disciples See the Brightness of Jesus

Before: You will need Bibles or copies of the scripture for each person. You will also need butcher paper (a large roll of paper), markers, pens, pencils, magazines, glue, art supplies, etc. for them to create a mural. Try to have a variety of supplies to fuel their creativity. Make sure you identify a place to hang the mural once they are done.

Beginning: Today, we hear a story about Jesus transforming right in front of his disciples. I wonder when you have seen things change right in front of your eyes? (storm clearing and the sun coming out, a friend's sadness turns into a smile, first snow of the year, etc.)

Opening Prayer: Grant us, God, that as we see the light of Jesus' life, we may be changed into his likeness and bring light into the world. Amen.

The Story: Matthew 17:1-9 You can invite each child to read one sentence and just go around the room. Alternatively, you can ask one or two children to share in reading the passage.

Questions:

- I wonder what you liked most about this story?
- I wonder what it was like for the disciples to witness/see all of this?
- I wonder why Peter wanted to stay and build an altar there?
- I wonder how the disciples saw Jesus differently after this?
- In hearing this story, I wonder, how do you see God?
- I wonder if we see God in other people like Jesus saw God in Elijah and Moses?

Option: What Does God Look Like to Us?

Invite the children to create a mural of what God looks like to them. Roll out the butcher paper roll/rolls and have them gather around, each adding their own pictures, words, ideas, images, etc. to the mural. They can draw, use magazine pictures, write words or a poem, etc.

Getting Closure: If you have time, invite the children to share what they added to the mural. Hang the mural up for all to see. Invite the children to comment on what they see in other peoples work. Do we all see God the same?

Closing Prayer: God of Light and Love, thank you for all the ways you show yourself to us. Helps us to see you each and every day. Amen.

Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’ ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!’ ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Get up and do not be afraid.’ ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, ‘Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’

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