

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year A – Last Sunday after Epiphany**  
**Lesson Plans for Younger 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 butcher paper (a large roll of paper), markers, crayons, 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.)

**Praying:** Loving God, we thank you for all the ways you show us yourself. Help us to see you each day. Amen.

**The Story:** One day, Jesus took his friends Peter, James, and John up to a high mountain so they could pray. When they were on the mountain, all of the sudden, Jesus began to shine like the sun and his clothes became dazzling white. As Jesus was there, Moses and Elijah came and stood with him and the three began to talk. Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, was so excited about this that he wanted to stay and build houses for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah.

As Peter was saying this, God came in a bright cloud and said, 'This is my son, the one whom I love, listen to him.' When Peter, James, and John heard this, they were scared and amazed and fell to the ground in prayer. Jesus came to them, comforting them, and said, 'Get up and don't be afraid.' The disciples looked up and only found Jesus standing there with them. They were all amazed and walked down the mountain together.

**Questions:** This is an amazing story.

- The disciples saw Jesus begin to shine like the sun. I wonder how you picture Jesus? (Give them opportunity to answer.)
- I wonder what you think God looks like? (Give them opportunity to answer.)

**Activity: 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.

**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.

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