

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year B – Season after Pentecost, Feast of the Transfiguration, August 6**  
**Lesson Plans for Adults**

**Scripture: Luke 9:28-36**

**Background:** During this “Ordinary Time” our lives may well include exceptionally un-ordinary events, such as births and deaths. As we take this journey, nourished by the scriptures appointed for the season and empowered by our baptisms, we are invited to be on the lookout for all the blessings found in the ordinary – to see God at work here and now. And we are compelled to share our blessings with others.

**A Notation for This Week’s Gospel**

Jesus takes Peter, John, and James up a mountain to pray. The trek energized Jesus and exhausted the disciples. Through eyes heavy with fatigue, the disciples strained to understand what they were seeing. As Jesus prayed, "the appearance of his face changed and his clothes became dazzling white." Then they saw Moses and Elijah conferring with Jesus on what is ahead in Jerusalem. Peter felt compelled to "do" something. What was required was that he "be."

**Theme: God Is A Surprise!**

**Before Class:** You will need copies of the scripture/script found at the end of the lesson.

**Beginning:** Today we are celebrating the Feast of the Transfiguration, a commemoration of when Jesus was transfigured on the mountain.

Ask the group to comment on this statement: “We are not called human doings but instead human beings." To what extent do we actually live as "human beings" instead of "human doings”?

**Opening Prayer:** Thank you, God, for your patience with us as we seek to understand what you call us to do and to be. Amen.

**The Scripture (Luke 9: 28-36):** Invite one person to read the part of the voice from the cloud (verse 34b), one to read the part of Peter (verse 33b), and one to read the part of the narrator (all the rest). For a script, see below.

**Reflection Questions:**

- What stands out for you in this passage?
- Where is this happening? (On the top of a mountain)
- What is the difference in demeanor between the disciples and Jesus? (The disciples are exhausted from the climb and can barely keep their eyes open. Jesus is invigorated from the exercise and is deep in prayer with God.)
- What is the significance, to the disciples, of the presence of Moses and Elijah? (They are the two most significant leaders from Hebrew scripture. To this day, Jewish people leave a chair

vacant at Passover, in case Elijah should choose to join them. The presence of these two must have further reinforced their grasp of just who this Jesus is.)

- What do the disciples overhear of the conversation? (In verse 31 they hear what is to happen to Jesus in Jerusalem.)
- What was Peter's impetuous response to what he was seeing? (To build three dwellings to hang onto the moment)
- What similar responses do we, in our culture, tend to make? (Statues, buildings, markers, even the flowers and teddy bears that tend to show up after any disaster.)
- What distracts Peter from his idea? (Possibly a look on Jesus' face signaling that this was not a good idea; the cloud; the voice)
- Why do you think the three told no one of what they had seen? (Accept all answers. Perhaps they were just too scared, perhaps they were trying to absorb the fact that Jesus was to be killed, perhaps they realized no one would believe them.)

**Getting Closure:** Ask the group to respond to this statement: "Following the exciting discoveries made in science in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, our task is to rediscover mystery." How would you or how do you rediscover mystery?

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, for always being more wonderful than we can imagine. Amen.

## Luke 9: 28-36

**Narrator:** <sup>28</sup>Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup>Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup>They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup>Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus,

**Peter:** “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”

**Narrator:** —not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup>While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>Then from the cloud came a voice that said,

**Cloud:** “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”

**Narrator:** <sup>36</sup>When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

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