

Calvary Chapel  Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

1st Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 13

The Transfiguration

The Transfiguration

The Objective is the key concept for this weeks lesson. It should be the main focus of the study

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verse support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word

Objective This lesson will show the students that Jesus is God the Son through the story of the Transfiguration.

Key Verses

Luke 9:28-36—Main Teaching Passage

Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13(Parallel Passage)

Memory Verse - Luke 9:35

"And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!'"

Hook

Review last week's memory verse, Psalm 56:3.

On your cart is a double-sided picture. First, show the class the cocoon side and show them how ordinary-looking a cocoon is. There is nothing particularly stunning about one. Then flip the picture over to show the butterfly. Even though you might not know it when you look at a cocoon, there is amazing beauty on the inside.

Jesus walked around the earth looking like just another person. However, today we see that in reality, He is much more.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

At this point in their time spent with Jesus, the disciples had a pretty good idea of who Jesus was. They had seen him perform miracles and healings, give wise and godly teaching, and demonstrate authority and power that no one had seen before. It was obvious that Jesus was someone special. However, the disciples had yet to see fully who Jesus was. That would all change for Peter, James, and John when Jesus took them up to a mountain to pray. When they got to the top, Jesus' face began to shine and His clothes turned bright white. Next to Him appeared Moses and Elijah, two of the major heroes from the Old Testament, and they began talking about Christ's mission. Peter, James, and John were tired before they came up to the mountain, but when they saw this glory, they became wide awake. Mark tells us that Peter didn't know what to say, so he told Jesus that they should stay on the mountain and make three tents: one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. Then a voice from heaven cried out, "This is My Son. Hear Him!" As soon as they heard this, Moses and Elijah disappeared and Jesus was there alone, looking just as He did before they went up the mountain. As they returned down the mountain, Jesus commanded Peter, James, and John not to tell anyone about what had just happened until He rose again from the dead, according to Matthew.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK

Much like the disciples, as we have been journeying through the New Testament this year, we have been learning things about Jesus. When we saw Him overcome temptation in the wilderness, we learned that Jesus had no sin. We studied His parable of the soils and saw that He was a gifted teacher. We have looked at the many miracles He has performed and seen His authority and power over nature, disease, and demons. All of these qualities show us that Jesus is great, but today is the first time we get to see clearly that Jesus Christ is God, the Son of God the Father. As the disciples saw Jesus' glory for the first time when they saw the transfiguration, so also when we read this story, we get our first glimpse at Jesus' original nature as the Son of God.

This is important because today, people have all kinds of views about who Jesus is. While most people believe that Jesus was a real person, many people do not view Him as God. To some, He was just an ordinary human who happened to have a lot of followers. Others think He was a great and

LOOK (Continued)

wise teacher, but nothing greater than that. There are some religions that think Jesus was a prophet, perhaps even the greatest prophet. All of these views about Jesus, while true, are not sufficient. Jesus was not just a great leader, teacher, or prophet. Jesus is the Son of God!

Think about what the Father said from heaven in today's story: "This is My Son. Listen to Him!" The first sentence is a statement of fact, revealing to us who Jesus is. The second sentence is our response. If Jesus truly is God's Son, then we do need to listen to Him! In order to listen to Jesus and obey Him, we must first hear what He says. We can do that by reading the Bible regularly. Then, we must respond to Jesus' authority and obey. This means obeying the commands of Scripture (the things the Bible tells us to do, such as the Ten Commandments), but most importantly, we must hear and believe Jesus' main message, the Gospel. We must listen to the message of God's plan to save humankind, believe that Jesus came to die for our sins, repent of sins, and ask Him to be the Lord of our lives. If Jesus was not God, He would have no authority to command these things, but because He is God, we need to listen to all that Jesus says.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life.

TOOK

As a class, memorize Luke 9:35.

This lesson presents a good opportunity the Gospel to the students and give them an opportunity to respond and make Jesus the Lord of their lives.

Pray: Worship Jesus for His glory that was seen at the Transfiguration. Ask Him for help listening to and obeying all that He commands.

Parent Question: What happened at the Transfiguration and what does it show us about Jesus?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Luke 9:28-36 by David Guzik

1. ([Luk 9:28-29](#)) Jesus is transfigured before Peter, John, and James.

Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe *became white and glistening*.

a. **He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray:** What started as a mountain top prayer meeting quickly changed into the shining forth of the glory of Jesus, and **as He prayed**, Jesus was transformed right before the eyes of the disciples.

i. **White and glistening** translates a word that has the idea of "flashing like lightning." Jesus' entire appearance was transformed in a brilliant radiance of light.

ii. What exactly happened here? Matthew says that Jesus' *face shone like the sun* ([Matthew 17:2](#)), and both Matthew and Mark use the word *transfigured* to describe what happened to Jesus. For this brief time, Jesus took on an appearance more appropriate for the King of Glory than for a humble man.

iii. How did it happen? This was not a *new* miracle, but the temporary pause of an ongoing miracle. The real miracle was that Jesus, most of the time, *could keep* from displaying His glory.

b. Why did Jesus do this, and why at this time? Because Jesus had just told His disciples that He was going the way of the cross, and that they should follow Him spiritually. It would have been easy for them to lose confidence in Jesus after such a "negative" statement. But now, as Jesus displays His glory as King over all God's Kingdom, the disciples know that Jesus knows what He is doing; if He is to suffer, be rejected and killed, He is still in control

c. Jesus is showing in a dramatic way that cross bearers will be glory receivers. The end isn't the cross, the end is the glory of God.

2. ([Luk 9:30-31](#)) Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus.

And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.

a. Why **Moses and Elijah**? Because they represent those who are caught up to God ([Jude 9](#) and [2 Kings 2:11](#)). Moses represents those who die and go to glory, and Elijah represents those who are caught up to heaven without death (as in [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#)).

b. Also because they represent the Law (Moses) and the Prophets (Elijah). The sum of Old Testament revelation comes to meet with Jesus at the Mount of Transfiguration.

c. **Moses and Elijah** also figure together in prophecy, because they are likely the witnesses of [Revelation 11:3-13](#).

d. What did they talk about? **Moses and Elijah** were interested in the outworking of God's plan through Jesus; they spoke about what Jesus **was about to accomplish at Jerusalem**.

i. We can almost picture Moses and Elijah asking, "Are You really going to do it?" Moses would say, "I offered to be judged in the place of the people, but God wouldn't have it. Can you go through with this, Jesus?" Elijah would add, "I was persecuted terribly by Ahab and Jezebel, and I hated it-sometimes I went into a spiritual tailspin. Can you go through with this, Jesus?"

3. ([Luk 9:32-36](#)) Peter's unwise offer to build three tabernacles to honor Jesus, Moses, and Elijah, and the Father's response to that offer.

But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him. Then it happened, as they were parting from Him, *that* 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"; not knowing what he said. While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were fearful as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen.

a. **Master, it is good for us to be here; and let us make three tabernacles:** We often get into trouble when we speak like Peter did-**not knowing what he said**. Peter's mistake was in that he put Jesus on an equal level with Moses and Elijah-one tabernacle for each of them!

i. Peter, when he saw Jesus in His glory, must have said to himself: "All right! This is how it should be! Forget this business about suffering, being rejected, and crucified! Let's build some tabernacles so we can live this way with the glorified Jesus all the time."

b. **While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them:** As Peter says this, they are overshadowed with the cloud of God's glory-the Shekinah glory of God. This is the same idea of *overshadow* in [Luke 1:35](#), when the glory of God came upon Mary and she received the child Jesus.

i. **They were fearful as they entered the cloud:** Being in the presence of God's glory in this way was not really a pleasant experience, especially because Peter had just sinned and needed correcting. Sometimes the glory of God is shown in His correction of us.

c. **And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"** The voice from the cloud of glory makes it clear that Jesus is not on the same level as Moses and Elijah. He is the **beloved Son-so Hear Him!**

i. With so many voices crying out to us in our modern day, how we need to hear the call to **Hear Him!**

d. **But they kept quiet, and told no one in those days any of the things they had seen:** After it was all over, Peter, John and James **told no one**-after all, who would believe them?

i. But the event left a lasting impression on these men. Peter relates what happened in [2 Peter 1:16-18](#), how the voice from God saying, "*This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!*" was still ringing in his ears, confirming who Jesus was.

ii. As impressive as this experience was, it in itself did not change the lives of the disciples as much as being born again did. Being born again by the Spirit of God is the great miracle, the greatest display of the glory of God ever.