

# THE WORD BECAME FLESH



CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

## #21 - The Transfiguration Luke 9:28-45

**PICTURES** (Note: Inserted in brackets at the appropriate place in the lesson is the number of the picture to show the students.)

- 21-1 The transfiguration
- 21-2 Jesus rebuking the evil spirit in the boy

**REVIEW** (Before teaching lesson)

- **Journal Review:** Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- **Previous Lesson Review:** (Use the visual from the last lesson to aid in review) How did Jesus feed the crowd of 5,000 people? Why did he do that? Who did the disciples think Jesus was? What did Jesus mean when he said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."?
- **Big Question Review:** How does Jesus want to feed us? Let the students give their answers to the question.
- **Bible Verse Review:** John 6:35 Jesus wants to satisfy our souls.

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."

## LESSON CONTENT

**Note:** The Bible verses included in the lesson are from the NIV 1984 edition. The wording of the questions is derived from that version. If another version of the Bible is used, questions may need to be adapted.

In lesson 20, we learned about Jesus feeding 5,000 people with five loaves of bread and two fish. At that time, Jesus also told his disciples that he must suffer and die and then be raised to life. About a week after that happened, Jesus took three of his disciples, Peter, John and James, to a mountain where they experienced his transfiguration.

What do you think the transfiguration was? In the transfiguration Jesus' outer appearance was changed. (Trans means change, Figuration means figure or outside appearance.)

### **Luke 9:28-36 (picture 21-1)**

*<sup>28</sup>About eight days after Jesus said this, he took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. <sup>30</sup>Two men, Moses and Elijah, <sup>31</sup>appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus. They spoke about his departure, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.*

*<sup>32</sup>Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. <sup>33</sup>As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, "Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." (He did not know what he was saying.)*

*<sup>34</sup>While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." <sup>36</sup>When the voice had spoken, they found that Jesus was alone. The disciples kept this to themselves, and told no one at that time what they had seen.*

What was Jesus doing when the transfiguration took place? Praying

What was the change that took place? The appearance of his face changed and his clothes were full of light like they were lightening.

What do you think that would seem like? It is hard to imagine although it is reminiscent of the angels appearing to the shepherds. It is like the glory of heaven came down on earth.

Who appeared with him? Moses and Elijah

What was Moses' role in Jewish history? He delivered the people out of slavery in Egypt. Through Moses God gave the people the Ten Commandments and the law they were to follow. Moses was both a deliverer and law giver.

What was Elijah's role? Elijah was an important prophet God sent to his people Israel. Elijah spoke from God and was sent to turn the hearts of the people back to God. John the Baptist was a type of Elijah.

When was the other time God the Father had spoken to Jesus from heaven? It happened at the beginning of Jesus' ministry on earth when he was baptized. The transfiguration marks the end of his ministry as he is preparing for his death.

Why do you think Peter, John and James keep this event quiet and didn't tell others about what they had seen? They may have figured people would think they were crazy and would not believe them, but Jesus had been continually warning them not to tell people who he was before his time had come to reveal himself.

**Luke 9:37-45** Jesus continued his work with warnings to the people when he came down from the mountain. **(picture 21-2)**

*<sup>37</sup>The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. <sup>38</sup>A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. <sup>39</sup>A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. <sup>40</sup>I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not."*

*<sup>41</sup>"O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here."*

*<sup>42</sup>Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. <sup>43</sup>And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.*

*While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples, <sup>44</sup>"Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men." <sup>45</sup>But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.*

Why couldn't the disciples drive the evil spirit out of the child? Jesus said it was because of a lack of faith. The lack of faith either had to be on the man's part or the disciples' part. The disciples may have tried to do it in their own power rather than through prayer and reliance on the Father. Jesus received power from above to perform miracles. Things would change after Jesus' death and resurrection when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples. They would have power to do all sorts of miracles.

While everyone was marveling at what Jesus did, what did Jesus tell his disciples? He warned them of his betrayal.

Why do you think Jesus told them that at that time? He probably didn't want them to be caught up in the excitement of the moment, but to know that struggles were going to come.

Why do you think the disciples couldn't understand what Jesus meant? People were marveling at Jesus. He was popular at that time. The disciples probably thought his popularity would continue to grow and they were excited about that.

What did the Jewish people expect the Messiah to do? The people at the time expected the Messiah to do great things and deliver them from the Romans. The disciples had a difficult time understanding what Jesus was saying about what was going to happen because they thought their enemy was an outside oppressor rather than their own sin. The Jewish people misunderstood what the Messiah would save them from.

What had the disciples seen in the transfiguration? In the transfiguration the disciples had visually seen the glory of God in Jesus on the mountain top. Christ came to reveal the glory of God, the fullness of who he is and his majesty. His glory, which came from the Father and that Jesus reflected back to the Father, was hard for them to comprehend, just like it is for us.

In John 17:1b-3, Jesus says,<sup>1</sup> *“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.*

## LESSON WRAP-UP

- **Overview Questions:** What happened to Jesus while he was praying? Who is Moses? Who is Elijah? What did God the Father say about his Son? Why couldn't the disciples heal the demon possessed boy?
- **Thought Questions:** With all Peter saw Jesus do and what he experienced in the transfiguration why would he lack faith? What causes us to lack faith?
- **Prayer:** Pray that you would continually look up and be connected to God through Jesus. Pray that you wouldn't let the struggles of this world take your eyes off of God and the eternal reality of life.
- **The Big Question: How has God revealed his glory?**  
Let the students give their answers to the question. Share the memory verse. Ask how it answers the question.
- **Memory Verse: John 17:1b-3**  
God's glory is revealed through the gift of his Son.

*“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*

Questions: Why did the Father glorify Jesus? How are we given eternal life?

## ACTIVITIES (Completed after the lesson)

Any age appropriate activity can be included which fits into the class time. The checked activities are included in the class booklet.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Have the children answer the two questions individually or as a group. What did you learn from this lesson? How can you put into practice what you learned?

★ **Memory Verse:** Read the memory verse on the cover of the booklet and then have the students fill in the blanks in the verse in the inside.

★ **This Week's Big Question:** Have the students fill in the blanks for the way the memory verse answers the big question.

God's glory is revealed through the gift of his Son.

★ **Coloring Page:** Color the lesson picture.

- **Craft:** Transfiguration picture

Materials: cover stock paper, gold glitter glue or gold paint, cotton balls, skin colored pencil.

Preparation: Run off craft 21 on cover stock paper

Instructions: Color in the face, hands and feet of Jesus. Paint or spread glitter glue over the garment and halo of Jesus. Glue cotton balls to the cloud over and below Jesus.

- **Game:** Pictionary

Instructions: Have the children divide into teams and draw pictures of events that showed Jesus is God.

## JOURNAL

The daily journal is included in the booklet for the students to complete at home. It has six poetic readings and related Bible verses. It would be beneficial for the teacher to read through and be familiar with its content.