

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.

³⁵ 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)

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

³²Peter and his companions were very sleepy, but when they became fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. ³³As 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.)

³⁴While he was speaking, a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. ³⁵A voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him." ³⁶When 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.

How did Jesus fulfill the roles of both Moses and Elijah? He was sent to deliver people from their sin. He is the fulfillment of the law. He is the image of the invisible God. He has made a way for people to come back into right relationship to the Father.

Person	Role	Complete fulfillment in Jesus
Moses	Deliverer Law giver	Delivered people from sin Fulfillment of law – Brings to completion, Satisfies the requirements of the law
Elijah	Spoke from God Pointed people to God	God himself Opens way back to God – Fulfillment of justice, perfect sacrifice

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)**

³⁷The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. ³⁸A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. ³⁹A 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. ⁴⁰I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not."

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

⁴²Even 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. ⁴³And they were all amazed at the greatness of God.

While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples, ⁴⁴"Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men." ⁴⁵But 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,¹ *"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ 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. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ 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 activities with a star are included on the class notes.

- ★ **Lesson Notes:** Ask the students to summarize in one sentence what the lesson was about. Then have them give three main points covered in the lesson. An example is below.

Theme: Jesus went up to the mountain and as he prayed his appearance was changed and Moses and Elijah were there with him.

1. Jesus' face was changed and his clothes looked like lightening.
2. The voice of the Father spoke from heaven saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."
3. The disciples didn't tell anyone what happened there.

Why do I need to know this? The Father confirmed again in a supernatural way who Jesus is. As Jesus prayed the Father was there with him. Jesus wasn't left to suffer alone on earth. The fullness of God was with him. God can be with me, too, when I seek him.

- ★ **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.

- ★ **Activity Page:** Word Scramble

Instructions: Unscramble the words related to the transfiguration to define what transfigure means. Words: bright, shine, face, voice, glory. Transfigure: To change the appearance of.

- ★ **Further Understanding:** Bible Study Skills

Instructions:

1. Read the whole passage below to the students as they read along in their Bibles or on the discussion notes.
2. Read the passage verse by verse and have the students explain each verse.
3. Have the students extract one important truth from the passage. This can be done as an entire class or you can break into pairs or small groups.
4. Have the students answer the additional two questions: How can you apply this truth in your life? What will be the result of applying that truth?

John 17:1-5 – Jesus prays for himself

17 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ² For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³ Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

Discussion Questions: Why did Jesus come? What is eternal life? When did Jesus gain glory?

The daily journal inside the booklet has six readings that relate to a theme. It would be beneficial for the teacher to work through the journal readings also.

Journal Focus: How is God's glory seen?

Reading 1: Psalm 19:1-4 God's glory is seen in his creation.
How is God's glory seen in his creation?

Reading 2: Exodus 34:29-35 God's glory is seen in his law and presence.
How is God's glory seen in his law? How is God's glory seen in his presence?

Reading 3: 2 Corinthians 4:4-6 God's glory is seen in Christ.
How is God's glory seen in Christ?

Reading 4: Hebrews 2:5-11 God's glory is seen through Jesus' death.
How is God's glory seen through Jesus' death and resurrection?

Reading 5: John 17:20-26 God's glory is seen in unity with Christ.
How is God's glory seen in unity with Christ?

Reading 6: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18 God's glory is seen through our transformation.
How is God's glory seen in our transformation?