

## Discover God – Elementary-Teen

Matthew 17:1-8

January 26, 2025

### Grow in Faith (Info for teachers)

*The story of the Transfiguration is often told leading up to the season of Lent. It prepares followers for the Lenten journey and sheds light on both Jesus' humility and his divinity. This concept can be difficult to fully grasp for children. But there are some concrete pieces of this story that can help guide our understanding.*

*At the end of verse 5, we hear the familiar words that were also spoken at Jesus' baptism, "this is my son whom I dearly love. I am very pleased with him" (Mathew 17:5). These words from God are another reminder of Jesus' purpose on earth and his divine calling. And when Easter finally arrives, these moments of divinity help us better understand the importance of the Resurrection. In some ways, the Transfiguration deepens our understanding of Christ's purpose and calls us to keep seeking the ways he will always transform the world. The story of the Transfiguration seeks to capture Jesus' teachings and ministry, while at the same time preparing us for the journey ahead.*

### Come Together

#### Prepare to Learn

#### Faith Focus – We Discover God Together

*Supplies – Posters (class pack 6&19), white board*

**Say:** As Christians, we seek God's goodness in the world. We look for God's treasure in our communities. We see God's goodness when people help each other. We see God's treasured creation and know that God is good. We also know that Jesus is the reason for our Salvation.

**Ask:** What can you tell me about Jesus? What are some words that come to mind when you think about Him?

**Say:** Jesus is God's Son. He taught people to learn to love each other, forgive each other, extend grace, and connect to God. Jesus loves each one of us and wants us to discover God.

#### Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you for the ways that you love us. Thank you for giving us friends to search with us for your treasure on earth. Thank you for being with us even when things are hard or scary or we do not understand what is happening. Amen.

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### Open the Bible

**Say:** In today's story, we will learn about a moment between Jesus and two of the Old Testament prophets. They appeared together on a mountaintop. The moment was puzzling. It confused Jesus' friends. This moment is called the Transfiguration. Peter, James, and John had to climb a mountain with Jesus to search for this treasure.

[Watch the video.](#) (another option would [be Kids on the Move video](#))

**In person can watch the DVD for review questions.**

**Say:** God promised to take care of His people from the beginning. Jesus is another example of God's goodness. Jesus wants us to know that God is with us when we are afraid. God is with us when things seem scary. God is with us when unbelievable things happen. Jesus showed his friends that God is faithful.

**Ask:** Do you have a person or thing that helps you feel safe and loved?

**Say:** Peter, James, and John followed Jesus up a mountain knowing that Jesus had something special to show them. Jesus is God's greatest treasure because Jesus connects all people to God. God was pleased with Jesus. God loves us too.

### Faith Response

*The following activities will depend on your group. If it is a larger group with several younger kids, it can be split, and activities can be done separately. Read through them and decide what works best for your group.*

#### **1. Playing with Light – Craft**

##### **Supplies:**

- Clear contact paper, tissue paper in various colors, scissors, markers, hole punch, yarn.

##### **Instructions:**

**Say:** Jesus' face shown like the sun in today's story. You can make your own art to capture the sun and remember God's love for everyone.

1. There will be some precut shapes (hearts, star, etc.) or some squares of contact paper that kids can cut to make their own shapes.
2. Have the children unpeel one piece of contact paper and fill with tissue paper.
3. Stick a second piece of contact paper, sticky side down, onto the decorated paper.
4. If kids are cutting their own shapes, have them draw a simple shape (like a flower outline, a circle etc.) on that contact paper. Then cut out along that border. Kids using the precut shapes will have to trim the contact paper around their shapes.

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5. Use a hole punch to create a hold. Tie a piece of yarn through the hole as a hanger for the suncatcher.

### 2. Treasure map – Activity

#### Instructions:

**Say:** Peter, James and John went on a mountain-climbing adventure with Jesus to see something special. We seek treasure with Jesus too when we try to connect to God in our church.

**Ask:** What kind of treasure do we find at church?

**Say:** sometimes the treasure at church might be the food we eat together, the fun times we have, the people who love us or our chance to connect to God through worship. Let's make a treasure map to lead others to God in our church.

- Supplies: paper, colored pencils, markers.
- Give each child a piece of paper.
- Encourage children to consider his or her favorite treasure in your church.
- Have each child create a map from your classroom to the treasure.
- Invite the children to share their individual maps with the group.

### 3. Change It Up– Game

You can play this as a group (or partners if all don't want to play). Ask for one person (or partner) to leave the room. Have the person who left change something about their appearance. (An example could be if the person's hair was up, he/she could take it down, remove a necklace, roll up a sleeve, etc.). Have the person come back into the room and see if the group (or partner) can guess what has changed in their appearance. Switch and allow others to change their appearance.

There will be a crossword or other paper materials available for those who want it.

### Share Your Faith

**Supplies:** Poster (8&17), white board

**Say:** We seek God with our friends at church every time we come into this building. We do not always know what God is doing, but as we build relationships with each other and connect to God through worship, Scripture, and prayer, we get better and better at recognizing God's treasures here on earth.

*Invite kids to share ways she or he could help others feel close to God.*

In person – Take Home page