

Jesus Reveals What We Will Be

FOR THE TEACHER:

The story of Jesus' transfiguration is a revelation of the Trinity and a revelation of humanity's adoption into the life of the Trinity. In the story we see the Son in the flesh as Jesus and the Father speaks from heaven - as in the story of Jesus' baptism. This time, however, the Holy Spirit does not appear in the form of a dove but rather in the form of a cloud - like the shekinah glory which led the Israelites by day in the wilderness and descended in the temple at its dedication. When Jesus is transfigured it confirms his identity as God the Son in the flesh but it also reveals to us what the fullness of the Kingdom will be like: humanity will be in the glory of the resurrection, in communion with the Trinity, and in communion with all who have already died (here symbolized by Moses and Elijah).

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are part of the Trinitarian Catechism.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ask for a helper to pass out a bible to each child. Have them all turn to Mark 9:1-8. For older kids, have them take turns reading.

9:1 And he said to them, "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

9:2 After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them.

9:3 His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.

9:4 And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

FIRST ACTIVITY: Bring in a clean, white sheet or shirt. Have one kid be Jesus and three others be Peter, James, and John. As the kid playing Jesus is "transfigured" by putting on the white sheet talk about what is happening: he's not changing into something other than what he already was, but his appearance is changing.

9:5 Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters— one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." 9:6 (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

9:7 Then a cloud appeared and enveloped them, and a voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"

9:8 Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

**Who are the three persons of God? Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

**Which person became the man Jesus? The Son*

**Who was on the mountain top with Jesus when his appearance was change and he became as bright as lightning? Peter, John, and James*

**Who spoke from heaven and said "This is my Son, listen to him"?* The Father

**Who descended on Jesus and the disciples in the form of a cloud?* The Holy Spirit

**What do we call this event?* The Transfiguration

**When do we celebrate it?* Every Sunday and especially on Transfiguration Sunday

**How did Jesus show that he was the Son of God?* By telling us about our Father in heaven and performing many miracles.

PRIMARY LESSON: God the Son includes us in the life of the Trinity by taking our humanity into the Trinity's life and transforming us. Someday we will be resurrected and glorified just like Jesus.

SECOND ACTIVITY: Using a felt board, white board, or poster board, create a scene that shows the mountain top, Jesus, James, John, and Peter, as well as the cloud. Have the kids label each part of the story: who is God the Son? Jesus. Where is the Holy Spirit? the cloud. From where does the Father speak? from inside the cloud. Rehearse the story again by having the kids tell you about each element of the story and how they interacted.

PRAYER: For older kids, have one of them pray this prayer (or come up with their own). For younger kids, have them repeat after you as you read the prayer.

Father in heaven, thank you for sending Jesus to adopt us as your children and transform us into people who can live with you forever. Jesus, thank you for including us in your glorified life. Holy Spirit, help us to believe that our Father loves us and that Jesus will keep us with you forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.