

Welcome to Kids Corner!

Sunday, February 11, 2024

TRANSFIGURATION

Mark 8:27–9:8

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Key Verse:

[Jesus] asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.”
Mark 8:29

The Point:

Jesus is revealed as the promised Messiah.

Making Connections:

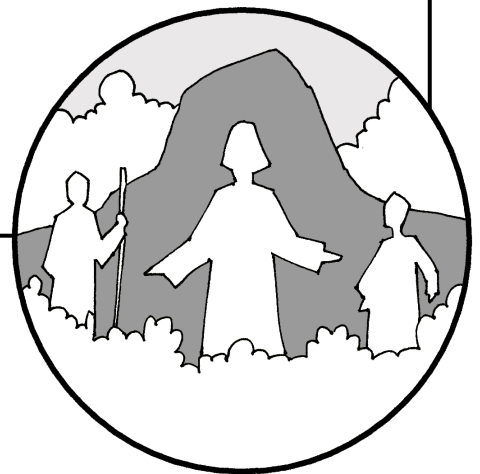
The Power of the Kingdom

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Old Testament Connections

Spiritual Practice:

Prayer



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

Jesus asks his disciples an important question: who do they think he is? They need to understand the nature of Jesus' mission on earth since, in just a little while, they will be carrying it out without him.

Story Summary:

Transfiguration

This conversation between Jesus and the disciples happens after two very remarkable miracle stories. First, Jesus feeds a crowd of thousands with just a few loaves and fishes. Then he heals a man of his blindness. But in the midst of these miracles remains the central question to which Jesus must always return, "Do you not understand?"

So Jesus asks the big question: "Who do others say that I am?" The disciples give him the town gossip—he is the return of Elijah or John the Baptist or another prophet. Then Jesus makes the question more direct: "Who do you say that I am?" Peter is the one who responds, making the great confession of faith, "You are the Messiah." It seems clear that Jesus is using his last few weeks with the disciples to ground them in their faith and to grow them in their understanding, so they will be able to continue the ministry on their own.

In the transfiguration story, three disciples see the great prophets Moses and Elijah, and then a voice cries out, "This is my Son!" All of these parallels tie Jesus into God's history with Israel and propel him from the beginnings of ministry toward the all-important end of the story.

The Point

Jesus is revealed as the promised Messiah. Jesus brings God's kingdom to earth in his special connection to God. The transfiguration story reminds us of the dual nature of Jesus' life. He is a human being, with all the trials and challenges of a human life; but he is also the Son of God with all the power of God behind him.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Old Testament Connections

There are over 2,000 direct quotations of the Hebrew Bible in the New Testament. These are spread across the four Gospels, Acts, and the Epistles. Allusions, or references, to the Hebrew Bible appear in almost every book of the New Testament. The Hebrew Bible was the Scripture of the early Christians before the New Testament texts were written. Many of the references are used to explain who Jesus is and connect him to the promises of the Hebrew Bible. In today's reading, Jesus is connected to Moses, who represents the law, and Elijah, who represents the prophets, demonstrating that Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets.

Spiritual Practice: Prayer

We understand who Jesus is by our relationship to him. It turns out the critical question Jesus asks is not what the crowd thinks of him, but what the disciples think. The disciples have special access to Jesus and have a personal relationship with him. We also have a personal relationship with Jesus. We do not just learn about Jesus from what others say, but also from how we experience Jesus in our own hearts through prayer.



WHO IS GOD TO ME?

Explore different identities of God.

GOD IS MY WISDOM

James 3:17



MY STORY:

GOD IS MY PEACE

Philippians 4:7



MY STORY:

GOD IS MY LIGHT

1 John 1:5



MY STORY:

GOD IS MY JOY

Psalms 16:11



MY STORY:

WHO IS GOD TO ME?

Explore different identities of God.

GOD IS MY SHEPHERD

Psalm 23



MY STORY:

GOD IS MY ROCK

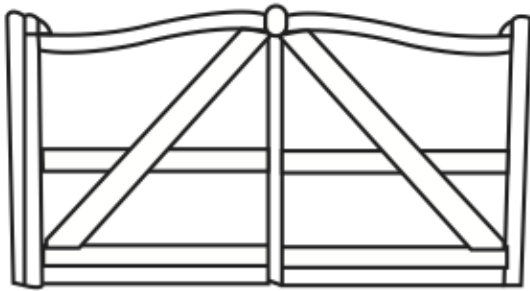
Psalm 18:1-2



MY STORY:

GOD IS MY GATE

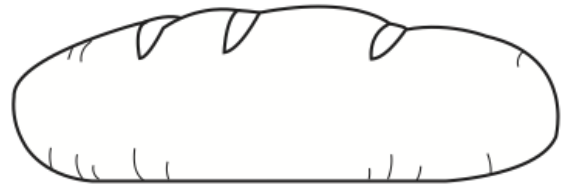
John 10:9



MY STORY:

GOD IS MY BREAD

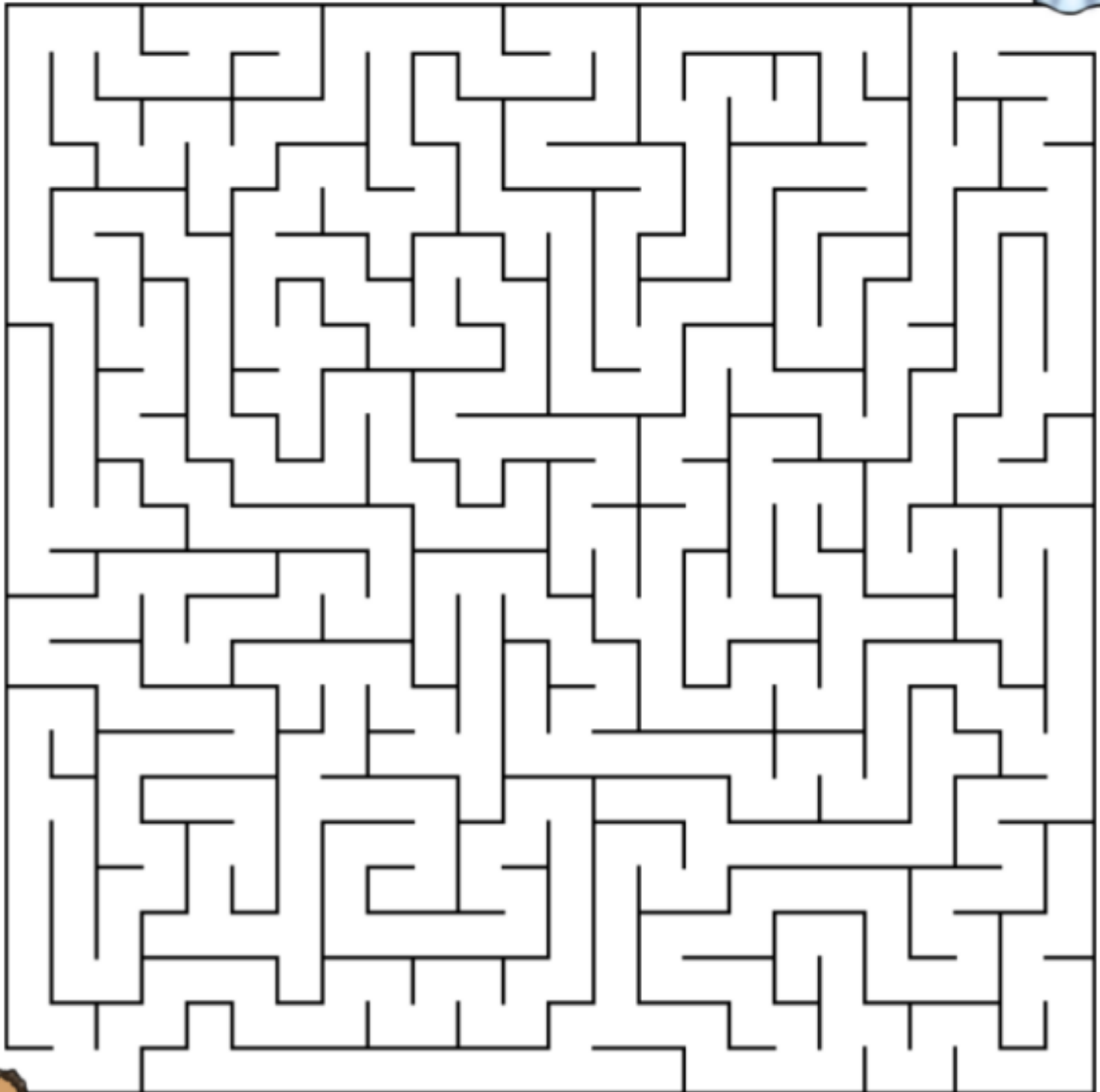
John 6:35



MY STORY:



Transfiguration is a fancy word for a change in form. In the original language, it is the same word used for the change that a caterpillar goes through to turn into a butterfly. In Matthew 17, Jesus was transformed. His face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as light.



Learning to Listen to God

This is a survey of your listening skills. For each statement, choose a point on the line that best represents you.

1. When I enter a conversation, I am more ready to listen than to talk.

|-----|-----|-----|-----|
Describes me well Does not fit me at all

2. I am able to remain focused and avoid interruptions while I am listening.

|-----|-----|-----|-----|
Describes me well Does not fit me at all

3. I use good posture while listening to help me stay focused on the conversation.

|-----|-----|-----|-----|
Describes me well Does not fit me at all

4. I listen with an open mind and heart.

|-----|-----|-----|-----|
Describes me well Does not fit me at all

5. I want to listen in order to learn.

|-----|-----|-----|-----|
Describes me well Does not fit me at all

6. I delay judgment while listening.

|-----|-----|-----|-----|
Describes me well Does not fit me at all

7. I consider that the speaker might know something that I don't know.

|-----|-----|-----|-----|
Describes me well Does not fit me at all

8. When I am unsure of what I have heard, I try to repeat the idea back to the speaker to check for understanding.

|-----|-----|-----|-----|
Describes me well Does not fit me at all

9. When I understand what was said, I take responsibility for my understanding by acting appropriately upon this knowledge.

|-----|-----|-----|-----|
Describes me well Does not fit me at all

10. I am able to empathize with the one who is speaking.

|-----|-----|-----|-----|
Describes me well Does not fit me at all

Based on this survey, do you consider yourself to be a good listener? Explain your answer.

Part 2

Discuss each of the statements from part 1, and your responses, with your group. Then answer the following questions.

How can you apply some or all of the statements in the survey to listening to God?

Which of the statements from part 1 is most important to remember when trying to listen to God's voice in your life? Why did you choose this statement?

As a group, write a description of the most important skills you need to develop in order to listen to God. You will share this description with the class.



THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story

Narrative Lectionary, Year 2 (2023-2024)

Mark 8:27-9:8

LAST WEEK

Jesus returns to his hometown and finds that there is little faith among them. Jesus then sends out the twelve disciples to heal and spread the good news (Mark 6:1-29).

THIS WEEK

The transfiguration reveals Jesus' authority as the Messiah, the Son of God (Mark 8:27-9:8).

STORY SUMMARY

Transfiguration

After asking his disciples who others say who he is, he makes the question more direct: "Who do you say that I am?" Peter responds with a great confession of faith, "You are the Messiah." Then Jesus invites three disciples to a mountaintop where they see Jesus shining brightly alongside Moses and Elijah, and then a voice cries out, "This is my beloved Son!" All of these parallels tie Jesus into God's history with Israel and propel him from the beginnings of ministry toward the all-important end of the story.

PRACTICE PRAYER

We understand who Jesus is by our relationship to him. We do not just learn about Jesus from what others say, but also from how we experience Jesus in our own hearts through prayer. Spend time this week quietly listening for God together as a family.

THE POINT

Jesus is revealed as the promised Messiah.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Old Testament Connections

There are over 2,000 direct quotations of the Hebrew Bible in the New Testament. These are spread across the four Gospels, Acts, and the Epistles. Allusions, or references, to the Hebrew Bible appear in almost every book of the New Testament. The Hebrew Bible was the Scripture of the early Christians before the New Testament texts were written. Many of the references are used to explain who Jesus is and connect him to the promises of the Hebrew Bible. In today's reading, Jesus is connected to Moses, who represents the law, and Elijah, who represents the prophets, demonstrating that Jesus is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets.

NEXT WEEK

Jesus teaches his disciples about the cost of following him (Mark 10:17-31).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ In what way does this text teach about the theme The Power of the Kingdom?
- ✚ What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✚ What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Mark 9:1-8

The transfiguration.

Light three candles as you hear the story of how Jesus walked up the mountain and met with Elijah and Moses. Pray that God's light would shine through you.

Monday—Read Mark 9:9-13

Elijah has come.

What historical figure would you most like to talk to? Why?

Tuesday—Read Mark 9:14-29

Healing a possessed child.

Prayer is powerful. Talk about the most amazing answer to prayer that you have experienced.

Wednesday—Read Mark 9:30-37

Who is the greatest?

Play a game in which somebody wins. Talk about what it means to be first in a game, and how that might be different from the way that God figures greatness.

Thursday—Read Mark 9:38-50

Helping other followers.

Talk about a few small things you can do together as a family, to show others the kindness of God.

Friday—Read Mark 10:1-12

A teaching on divorce.

This passage is about committed relationships. Hug one another and tell your family members that you love them.

Saturday—Read Mark 10:13-16

Jesus blesses children.

There is a great deal of art based on this passage. Look online at different images and choose your favorite. Why is it your favorite?