

Second Sunday of Lent

God's glory on the mountain

INTRODUCTION

When Jesus wanted to pray, he would often find a quiet, peaceful place away from the crowds, where he could be alone with his heavenly father. One day he took three of his disciples with him. He planned to give them a great surprise by giving them a glimpse of God's glory!

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

As we light our candles today, we think about the brightness of their light which reminds us of God's glory.

SORRY

Ask a child to choose a sorry color from the large "SORRY" picture (see Introduction). The child can then read the corresponding Sorry Prayer, or the group can say the prayer together.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 2.

GOSPEL (MATTHEW 17:1-9)

One day Jesus asked Peter, James, and John to come and pray with him. He led them to the top of a steep mountain, where it was peaceful and quiet, and they could be alone.

Jesus began to pray to his heavenly father when suddenly he appeared to change! His face and clothes shone with a brilliant light, as dazzling as the rays of the sun. Then the disciples saw Moses and Elijah on either side of Jesus, talking to him.

Peter jumped up with excitement and said, "Lord, this is wonderful! I could make three shelters, one for each of you!" At that moment a cloud streaming with light appeared above them, and a voice said, "This is my son, whom I love very much. Listen to what he says." The disciples were so terrified that they threw themselves to the ground and hid their faces.

Then Jesus said gently, "Get up my friends, do not be afraid." When they looked up, Jesus was standing alone. As they came down the mountain

together, Jesus told them firmly, "You must not tell anyone about what you have seen today, until the son of God has risen from the dead."

DISCUSSION

Jesus led his friends to the top of a mountain. In the Old Testament, mountains were often the place where God appeared to people. When Jesus began to pray, what happened? How did he change?

Two people appeared beside Jesus. Can you remember their names? Moses was the man chosen by God to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt to the Promised Land. He had taken them through the Red Sea and across the desert for forty long years. He collected the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai.

Elijah was a prophet, a man who spoke for God. He had warned people not to disobey God and to follow God's rules. Like Moses, he always trusted God and did whatever he asked.

The disciples were amazed at this sight, but what happened next to make them fall to the ground in fear? God wanted the three friends to know that Jesus was his son.

In days to come, when Jesus would suffer and die, they would remember the glory of God that they had seen on the mountaintop. Jesus was showing himself as they would know him in heaven.

ACTIVITY

Cut out and color these figures to create a transfiguration scene.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God,
Peter, James, and John
saw the light of your glory
shining from Jesus
on the mountain that day.
Jesus shares that light
and his love with all of us.
May the light in our hearts
help us to change
so that we will be more like Jesus,
filled with his joy, happiness, and goodness.

