

**Focus:** Listening to Jesus

**Materials:**

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth  
CD: America's 25 Favorite Bible Songs  
Gospel: Children's Everyday Bible  
Robes for actors  
Flashlight/mirror

**Gathering** (children find/sit on a carpet square)

*Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. Last week we talked about making the right choice the way Jesus did. Today, our story tells us that it is important to listen to Jesus as he teaches us about God's rules*

**Opening Prayer**

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

*Say: Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.*

*Let us pray.*

*Loving God, you prepared Peter, James and John for all that would happen later by giving them a peak at your Son's dazzling glory.*

*Help us to know Jesus too, and to prepare our hearts for the dazzling glory of Easter. Amen.*

**Song/Movement**

*I Will Call Upon the Lord*, track: 17, from America's 25 Favorite Bible Songs

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc.

*I will call upon the Lord  
Who is worthy to be praised  
So shall I be saved from my enemies*

*(Echo in parentheses)  
I will call upon the Lord (I will call upon the Lord)  
Who is worthy to be praised (Who is worthy to be praised )  
So shall I be saved from my enemies (So shall I be saved from my enemies )*

*Chorus:           The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock  
                      And let the God of my salvation be exalted  
                      The Lord liveth, and blessed be the Rock  
                      And let the God of my salvation be exalted*

*(Echo in parentheses)  
I will call upon the Lord (I will call upon the Lord)  
Who is worthy to be praised (Who is worthy to be praised )  
So shall I be saved from my enemies (So shall I be saved from my enemies )*

*Repeat the Chorus 2 times*

### Memory Verse

Say: *Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.*

*This is my Son, listen to him.*

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: *When God says this in today's Gospel he makes sure that the disciples know that Jesus is the one they must listen to. They hear many different teachings from the religious leaders in the area, but Jesus is the one with God's true message.*

### Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *"Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it."*

**Read:** Children's Everyday Bible, pp. 262, *Jesus is Transfigured*

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

### Discussion Starters:

- *Who does Jesus take up the mountain with him?*
- *What happens to Jesus on the mountaintop?*
- *Who appears with Jesus on the mountaintop?*
- *What does the voice of God say?*
- *How do you think that changed Peter, James and John?*

### Reflection on Reading:

*Jesus had taken his friends up on the mountain to pray. Jesus prayed to his Father (God) all the time. This time God sent Moses and Elijah to Jesus. They had lived a long time before Jesus and they worked for God and helped spread God's word to the people of Israel. They trusted God and did all that God asked of them.*

*The Gospel tells us that Jesus' looked different and that his clothes became a dazzling like the sun. Although Jesus was human, he was also from God and the glory of God was in him. God the Father gave the disciples a great gift in letting them see his glory in Jesus. There were many times that God let the disciples know that Jesus was important and not just human he was also divine (God).*

## Gospel Activity

### Activity 1:

#### **Act it Out:**

Read the Gospel story again. While you are reading the children can take part in a small skit:

- Pick three children, Jesus, Elijah & Moses.
- Get robes ready
- Explain that “miming” is acting without words.

Action as follows:

“Let’s pretend we are climbing the mountain with Jesus, Peter, James and John.”

Have the children stand and pretend to climb, wipe your forehead. Ask the children how much further they think it is to the top. When the group decides you have reached the top, start reading the Gospel story.

- Have Jesus stand in front of the class.
- The two others are off to the side getting black robes put on by the helper.

>>When you read this<<	>>have children to this<<
His clothes were dazzling	-> Drop the white costume over Jesus—tell the children to mime what they think the apostles did when they saw Jesus’ face shine like the sun.
Moses and Elijah	-> The other 2 come to front—tell the children to mime what they think the apostles did when they saw the prophets appear with Jesus (maybe a little whispering)
This is my son ->	Have the children kneel down in prayer—tell the children to mime what they think the apostles did when they knew it was God that was talking from heaven.

Have Jesus, Elijah and Moses go to the side and take off their robes and rejoin the group.

Ask:

- What do you think Peter, James and John thought about Jesus after all this?
- What do you think about Jesus, the Son of God?
- How do you think Peter, James and John were changed because of what they saw?
- What kinds of things can we do to show Jesus how happy we are to know that he is God and that he loves us?

### Activity 2:

#### **Shining Jesus’ Light**

In today’s gospel story Jesus looked different and his clothes became dazzling, sparkling, bright like the sun. Jesus is the light. He isn’t from the dark, he is from God. He shows us how to be the light in the world so that we can bring God’s peace to others.

Have you ever sat outside on a bright sunny day and used a mirror to reflect the sun’s light? If one of you will take this flashlight and shine it on me I will show you what I mean. You see,

as the light shines on me, I hold up my mirror and I can reflect the light to shine on you. I am not the light; I am just letting my mirror reflect the light to shine on you.

If I am going to reflect the light on you, there are a couple of things that are very important:

- I must keep my mirror facing toward the light(keeping our eyes on Jesus). If I turn away from the light (stop listening to Jesus), I cannot reflect the light.
- I must make sure that nothing comes between the light and me. If that happens, I cannot reflect the light.

The Bible says that we are to let our light shine, but we need to remember that "Our Light" is Jesus. We are not the light, we are just mirrors that reflect His light.

If we are going to reflect the light of Jesus, we must remember a couple of things:

- We must keep our faces turned toward Jesus.
- We must not let anything come between us and Jesus.

(If time allows, have each child hold the mirror while you shine the light on them. Then have them share how they can show Jesus' light in the world.)

When we remember those two things, we will reflect His light to the entire world.

*Dear Jesus, we want to reflect your light in the world. Help us to keep our faces turned toward you and help us to keep anything from coming between us and you. Amen.*

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

### **Closing Prayer**

(Children respond: "I Believe!")

Ask: *Do you believe in God, who is our Father in heaven and the Father of Jesus?  
Do you believe in Jesus, who shows God's glory to those follow him?  
Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to trust in God's promises?*

### **Sending Forth**

Say: *Remember to shine the light of Jesus to others. Be kind, share, say nice things to everyone and the light will shine all over.*

### **Lining Up/Closing Song**

Play "Change my heart o' God." track 23 from [America's 25 Favorite Bible Songs](#) while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.