GENERATIONS OF GRACE

YEAR 3 · LESSON 11

The Transfiguration

Matthew 16:16

QUESTIONS

AGES 3–5

1. When Jesus changed, what did He look like? *His face shone like the sun, and His clothes were bright white like lightning.*
2. Who did Jesus take with Him up the mountain? *Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on "a high mountain" (Matt 17:1b).*
3. Who appeared with Jesus? *Moses and Elijah.*
4. What did God say out of the cloud? *He said Jesus was His Son, His chosen One, so listen to Him.*

AGES 6–8

1. Who did Peter say Jesus was? *Peter declared, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt 16:16).*
2. What did Jesus promise that some of the disciples would see before they died? *The kingdom of God, which is the Son of God on earth in His glory.*
3. Why did Jesus want to show them this? *To encourage His disciples. To show them that the high cost of discipleship was worth it.*
4. What did the light pouring out of Jesus show about Him? *It showed that He has divine glory in Himself. He is God, the Lord of glory.*

AGES 9–11

1. What did Peter confess? *Peter declared, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt 16:16).*
2. What did Moses and Elijah talk about with Jesus? *They talked about the coming events in Jerusalem, namely His death (Luke 9:30–31).*
3. How do the terms "Son" and "Chosen One" show both glory and death? *The Son is the King, and the Chosen One is the great Deliverer, but the Son obeys the Father to the point of death, and the Chosen One is the Servant who dies to pay for sin.*
4. What is the last thing God says, and the point of the whole transfiguration? *"Listen to Him." Because of Jesus' glory, accept His words, His death, and the cost of following Him.*

INTRODUCE

AGES 3–5

TRANSFIGURATION

A transfiguration is a change in form. In the case of Jesus, He supernaturally changed from His human form to His godly form as Lord and Savior. This concept may be explained by discussing disguises. When someone wears a disguise, it hides who they are. Disguise yourself and explain that this disguise hides your identity. In today's lesson, Jesus will be transfigured. His body was like a disguise that hid His glory as God.

FALSELY ACCUSED

Help the children understand the importance of the testimony the three disciples received concerning Jesus' identity. Tell a story with puppets about two children who are in a grocery store when one of them gets accused by the store manager of breaking something. While one child can testify that the other child did not break anything, the store manager will not believe it. But when several adults come and testify to the boy's innocence, the store manager has no choice but to admit he was wrong. Tell the children that in today's lesson they are going to hear several testimonies about who Jesus is. Tell them to listen closely to them.

AGES 6–8

BIOLUMINESCENCE

Bioluminescence is the production and emission of light by a living organism. Fireflies are one of many creatures able to generate their own light. In fact, before the development of the safety lamp, bottles containing fireflies were used by coal miners as a safe source of light. Show children a picture of a firefly—or an actual firefly—and talk about this magnificent example of God's creation. Tell the class that in today's lesson we're going to learn about something far greater: the dazzling light that shone forth from Jesus when He revealed His glory to Peter, James, and John.

IT IS ALL IN THE NAME!

When God said to the disciples, "This is my beloved Son" (Matt 17:5), He was revealing to them that Jesus is God. Ask the children where they got their last names. Their names were given by their parents, and having the same name as them means that they belong to them. Talk about your family's origin and explain to them that you know all this because of what your last name is. In the same way, God referring to Jesus as His "Son" tells us a lot about who Jesus is.

AGES 9–11

LISTEN TO HIM!

Create a test to see how well the children listen. Write instructions at the top of the page: "Read everything before answering. Whoever finishes first wins." Then list a series of questions or commands (state capital, number of books in the Old Testament, spin around, solve seven times seven, shout your name, etc.). For the last question, write: "To complete this assignment, write your

name in the upper right-hand corner and sit quietly (do not answer the other questions)." In today's lesson, God told Peter, John, and James to "listen!" to His Son (Luke 9:35). They were to give all their attention to what He said.

SECRET

Have you ever been told a secret? Why were you supposed to keep the secret? How long were you able to keep it a secret? In today's lesson, Peter, James, and John were allowed to see the glory of Christ. What an amazing sight! Yet, Jesus told them to keep what they saw a secret (Luke 9:36; Matt 17:9). Why do you think Jesus told them to keep it a secret? And why did Jesus show them His glory if they couldn't tell anyone? We'll find out in today's lesson.

ILLUSTRATE

AGES 3–5

UNDERSTANDING THE TRANSFIGURATION

A classic example of transfiguration is the progression from caterpillar to butterfly. Bring pictures of each stage of a butterfly's transformation to class: caterpillar, cocoon, and butterfly. You might also show a brief time-lapse video clip. Young children will be fascinated to learn about the wonders of God's creation. Discuss how God the Son added on humanity when He became a man. Describe how He grew from infancy to manhood. Then explain how He was transformed and showed His glory to His disciples on the Mountain.

WHITE, WHITER, WHITEST

Bring in three white clothes or garments, one that is quite dirty, one only slightly dirty, and one completely clean. Hold up the first: what color is this? White. What about this one (the second)? White. Is it the same color as the first? No, it's whiter. What about this one (the third)? It is even whiter! Mark 9:3 says Jesus' clothes were shining so brightly that they were whiter than any clothes on earth!

AGES 6–8

REFLECT VERSES RADIATE

Bring in a glow-in-the-dark star or some other object that glows in the dark (not a glow stick—it must glow by retaining light, not from a chemical reaction). Hold it close to the light to charge it, then turn off the lights to see it glow. Explain that this is what Moses was like after he was in God's presence—he reflected God's glory (Exod 34:29). Now turn on a very bright flashlight. Explain that just as the flashlight is much brighter and radiates its own light, so Jesus' glory was much greater than Moses' and came from Himself.

DEPARTURE

Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus and spoke about His "departure" (Luke 9:31). This word is commonly depicted at airports by a silhouette of an airplane taking off. Show the children a picture of this symbol and ask them whether they've seen it before. Is this the same kind of "departure" Moses and Elijah were talking about? No. Jesus was getting ready to go to His Father, but it would not be on an airplane. Jesus would go to His Father through the cross. Jesus' "departure" was His coming death in Jerusalem.

AGES 9–11

BLACK LIGHT

Another way to visualize the way Jesus' clothes might have looked during His transfiguration is to have the class stand in front of a black light. When the lights are turned off, the class should be able to see their clothes (especially white or neon clothes) shine brightly. Talk about how white Jesus' clothes were on that day.

UNDERCOVER BOSS

Undercover Boss was a hit television series that features senior executives who disguise themselves as entry-level employees in their own company to learn more about their business and employees. Imagine how their employees feel when their true identity is finally revealed, and they realize they've been working with their boss the entire time! In today's lesson, Jesus' true identity is revealed to Peter, James, and John. What an amazing sight!

PURE LIGHT

Bring a strong flashlight, a circle of black paper, a circle of wax paper, and a circle of clear shrink wrap (or a clear glass lens). Turn the lights off, the flashlight on, and explain: We have seen Jesus' bright, shining glory, and we have had the chance to share in His glory. But His glory is pure and does not mix with sin. Put black paper over a flashlight and explain that if you have not repented and been forgiven of your sin, or if you keep living in sin, you will not experience the beauty of Christ's glory in your life. But if you repent, Christ's glory will begin to change you (put wax paper over the light). And as you live in purity, Christ's glory will pour into and through you (put clear shrink wrap or glass), and one day you will be just like Him, sharing in His shining glory.