Preschool–Grade 6

The Transfiguration

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Listen to Jesus. He is glorious, and He tells us, "Be not afraid."
Bible passage: Matthew 17:1–9. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." *Matthew 17:5 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, 6 paper strips, a marker, tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 6 paper strips (see part 4). Put bookmarks in your Bible at Matthew 17:2 and Matthew 17:5.

1. Opening game: Hear Ye! (5 minutes)

Say: "Only do what I say if I say 'Hear ye!' first." Then call out actions: "Hear ye! Touch your toes." "Hear ye! Climb a mountain" (climb in place). "Jump up and down!" (no "Hear ye!", so nobody should move). If someone moves without "Hear ye!", they sit down for one turn and then come back in. Play a few rounds. Ask: *What did you have to do to play this game well?* Say: "You had to listen carefully! Today we will hear about a day when a voice from a cloud said, 'Hear ye him': listen to Jesus."

2. Bible story: Jesus Shines on the Mountain (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 17, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

One day Jesus took three of His disciples, **Peter**, **James** and **John**, James's brother. He brought them up into a high **mountain**, away from everyone else (Matthew 17:1).

There on the mountain, Jesus was **transfigured** in front of them (17:2). Say: "That means His whole look was changed." **Read Matthew 17:2 from your Bible:** "And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light." Say: "**Raiment** means clothes. Jesus' face was bright like the sun, and His clothes were as white as light!"

Then two men appeared, talking with Jesus: **Moses** and **Elias** (17:3). Say: "Moses was the man God used to give His law to Israel. Elias is Elijah, the prophet."

Peter said, "Lord, it is good for us to be here." He wanted to make three **tabernacles**, three tents, one for Jesus, one for Moses and one for Elias (17:4).

The story continues: While Peter was still talking, a bright **cloud** came over them, and a voice out of the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him" (17:5). Say: "**Hear ye him** means listen to Him: listen to Jesus!"

The disciples were so afraid that they fell down on their faces (17:6). But Jesus came and touched them. He said, "Arise, and be not afraid" (17:7). Say: "That means, 'Get up, and don't be afraid.'"

When they looked up, Moses and Elias were gone. "They saw no man, save Jesus only" (17:8). Say: "**Save Jesus only** means nobody but Jesus."

As they came down from the mountain, Jesus told them not to tell anyone what they had seen until He had risen again from the dead (17:9).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Which three disciples went up the mountain with Jesus? *(Peter, James and John, Matthew 17:1)*
2. What happened to Jesus' face and clothes? *(His face shone as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light, 17:2)*
3. Who appeared, talking with Jesus? *(Moses and Elias, 17:3)*
4. What did the voice out of the cloud say to do? *("Hear ye him": listen to Jesus, 17:5)*
5. What did Jesus say when the disciples were afraid? *("Arise, and be not afraid," 17:7)*

4. Memory verse: Cloud Strips game (5 minutes)

Tape the 6 strips up in order: *While he yet spake, / behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: / and behold a voice out of the cloud, / which said, This is my beloved Son, / in whom I am well pleased; / hear ye him. Matthew 17:5.* Explain the old words: **spake** means spoke, **behold** means look, **overshadowed** means covered over them, **beloved** means dearly loved, and **hear ye him** means listen to him. Read the verse together. Then take one strip away and read it again. Keep taking strips away, one each time, until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

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5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "On the mountain, the disciples saw how glorious Jesus is. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.
This week: listen to Jesus. Hear a Bible story or read a verse with your family every day, and do what Jesus says.

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **Transfiguration word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/transfiguration-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/transfiguration-craft), or **Arise!:** the kids crouch down low with their heads on their knees, like the disciples who "fell on their face" (Matthew 17:6). When you say, "Arise, and be not afraid!" they all jump up and look up. Ask, "Who did they see?" and they shout, "Jesus only!" (17:8). Let different children say Jesus' words.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus is so glorious and so kind. Help us listen to Jesus and do what He says, and help us not to be afraid, because He is with us. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks who spoke from the cloud: say what the Bible says. Matthew says it was "a voice out of the cloud" (17:5), and Peter later wrote that it was a "voice which came from heaven" (2 Peter 1:18). God spoke, and He told the disciples to listen to Jesus.

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