



## Scripture Background

In Sunday's Gospel, Peter, James, and John witness Jesus' Transfiguration. Jesus shows us that after his suffering and Death on the Cross, he will be resurrected. The Gospel of the Transfiguration gives us an idea of what Jesus will look like in Heaven. This helps these three Apostles believe that Jesus is God's Son. Their faith in Jesus grows stronger. The Transfiguration gives us a peek at our future too. If we do God's will and follow Jesus, God promises that we will go to Heaven. When Jesus comes again, our bodies will shine with God's glory in Heaven.

## Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together** (If you have a Bible, open it to Matthew 6:9–13, the Lord's Prayer.) Explain that the Bible contains four Gospels. We learned about Saint Mark last week. He and three other men listened to the stories about Jesus and wrote them down so we could know the stories too. Two of the men, Matthew and Luke, wrote down a prayer Jesus taught to people. **Ask:** Can you guess what the prayer is? Invite your child to look at the Bible passage if you are using it, and notice that it is the Lord's Prayer (Our Father). **Pray** the Lord's Prayer together.
- Cover Activity • We Are God's Children (page 1)** This Sunday's Gospel is a story of a way God revealed Jesus' identity to three of his followers. Although they have been with him for many months, watching him heal and listening to him teach, they have not grasped his identity as God's own Son. We are all on a lifelong quest to know Jesus and take on his spirit and mission. The images on the cover review Jesus' life and can help you and your child see how much you have learned about Jesus. Go through the questions in the four boxes together.
  - Jesus Is Human Like Us: *Mary and Joseph; Bethlehem; Nazareth*
  - Jesus Is the Son of God: *God saves; the Magi; Resurrection*
  - Jesus Is a Healer: *Peter's; leprosy*
  - Jesus Is a Teacher: *love God and neighbor; feed the person; visit/care for the person; Lord's Prayer (Our Father)*
- Article • Big Changes! (page 2)** When Jesus was transfigured, the change in his appearance frightened his disciples. Change is hard for many of us. God is good to us by giving us many changes in the natural world to get us used to its inevitability and its beauty. Read the butterfly article aloud together, pausing to find the photos described in the text.
- Discuss the *Know* questions related to the article.** Use the questions to review the article and to help your child see where growth and change might be happening now.

## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Jesus Is God's Son (page 3)** Identify Jesus, Moses and Elijah, and Peter, James, and John in the picture. **Ask:** What feelings do the disciples' faces show? *Surprise, fear, confusion*. Proclaim the Gospel together by alternating the reading.
- Discuss the *Know* question related to the Gospel.** Draw out your child's response by **asking:** What do Jesus' dazzling clothes show about who he is? *Jesus is very special. He becomes full of light when he prays to God. This is an image of how Jesus might*



appear in Heaven after his Resurrection. **Ask:** What does Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah show? *That Jesus is even greater than these two important people from the Old Testament.* **Ask:** What does the voice tell about who Jesus is? *Jesus is the Son of God.*

- Catholic Faith Word • Transfiguration (page 4)** Read aloud the definition. Explain that this happened as the time for Jesus' Death was getting closer. It helped his followers grow stronger in faith for the hard times ahead.
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 3)** Read "Jesus Calls Us to Glory." Help your child see the connection between Jesus' Transfiguration and his promise of Heaven to those who listen to and follow him.



- Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 14 and have your child find the first two blue boxes. Explain that these are lines from the Apostles' Creed that tell what we believe will happen to us after we die. Have your child read read aloud the words in the blue boxes.

Emphasize that God wants to share Heaven with all of us. **Ask:** What do you think Heaven will be like? **Ask:** What did Jesus' Transfiguration tell us about Heaven? *Our bodies will shine with God's glory in Heaven.* Invite your child to imagine and draw a picture of what Heaven will look like.

*Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Good News, page 4.*

## Live the Gospel

- Activity • We Pray to Our Father (page 4)** Read the activity title on page 4 aloud together. **Ask:** What did the voice from the cloud say in the Gospel? *This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.* **Ask:** Whose voice was that? *God the Father's.* **Ask:** When did you become a member of God's family? *Baptism.* Explain that God is Jesus' Father and our Father too. Take turns reading the four paragraphs on the left side of page 4.

Emphasize the importance of the Lord's Prayer since it is the prayer that Jesus taught us. Encourage your child to pray it every day. You might explain that it takes about twenty seconds to pray—the same amount of time it should take to wash our hands. Make it a point to pray it every time you wash your hands and remind your child to do the same.

- Activity • Lenten Calendar (page 1)** Point out the calendar squares that will spell the word *LOVE*. Remind your child to do each loving activity before gluing or taping its letter square on the calendar from the previous issue (February 21).
- Closing Prayer** "God our Father, thank you for creating us and making us members of your family. Jesus, thank you for sharing God's love with us and teaching us to live as your followers. Holy Spirit, help us to make loving choices so that we will enjoy Heaven someday. Amen."



## Parent Resources

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Visit [www.usccb.org/bible/readings](https://www.usccb.org/bible/readings) to read this Sunday's Scripture