

Life of Christ

On the Mountain with Jesus

Matthew 17:1-9

Younger Verse

We have seen His glory.

John 1:14b

Older Verse

We have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

John 1:14b

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus took Peter, James and John on a mountain to be with Him
Recognize that Jesus revealed His glory to these men
Understand that God confirmed that Jesus was His Son

Welcome Time

Have you ever climbed a mountain or hill? When you get to the top, the view is is glorious. In today's story, three of Jesus' friends got a glorious view at the top of the mountain!

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible before teaching it. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus' disciples had seen Him do amazing things. **Can you think of any miracles we have learned about?** Jesus had calmed a storm, fed thousands of people with a small amount of food, healed a sick woman, raised a girl from the dead, as well as many other amazing things. He also taught His disciples how they should live and about God's kingdom.

In today's story, Jesus did something different. He took only three of the twelve disciples with Him. **Can you guess which ones He took?** He asked Peter, James and John to go with Him to the top of a mountain. Jesus wanted these men to understand more about Him. **Do you remember which disciple had stated boldly that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God?** Peter had showed his faith by sharing his belief that Jesus was the Son of God.

So Jesus took these three friends and they climbed the mountain. While they were there, Jesus' face began to shine brightly, like the sun! Then His clothes began to shine as well! It was an amazing sight. But that wasn't all! Two men appeared there with Jesus—Moses and Elijah. These were important men in the Old Testament. They were very close to God.

Peter was so overwhelmed by what he saw! He didn't know what to say. He told Jesus that, if He wanted him to, he would make a shelter for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. He was trying to express his amazement and awe at what was taking place.

But while Peter was still talking, a cloud came down around the men and a voice came from the cloud—*God's* voice! God said, "This is my Son, who I love. Listen and obey Him!" When Peter, James and John heard God's voice, they were afraid and they fell to the ground. But Jesus encouraged them. He touched them and told them to get up and

not to be afraid. Then the disciples realized that they were alone with Jesus again. Moses and Elijah were gone.

Wow! What an amazing experience for these three men. They got to experience God's glory and presence. God had confirmed that Jesus was His Son. They did not need to wonder any more. They could have complete confidence that Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting for.

Do *you* ever wonder about who Jesus is? The Bible says in John chapter 1 that Jesus came from God and is God. It also says that Jesus became a man and lived here with us. John, the writer of the book of John, says that he **saw** God's glory displayed in Jesus! This same John was one of the three disciples on the mountain with Jesus. He really *did* experience God's glory! Not only that, but he saw Jesus die on the cross. Three days later, John saw Jesus risen from the dead.

We can experience God's glory, too! When we put our faith in Jesus, He will come into our hearts and give us a new life. He will completely change us. And one day, we will be in Heaven with Him, and will get to see all His glory!

Review Questions

1. Which three disciples did Jesus take with Him on the mountain? (Peter, James and John)
2. What happened to Jesus while they were on the mountain? (His face and clothes became very bright, like the sun)
3. What two Old Testament men appeared with Jesus on the mountain? (Moses and Elijah)
4. What did God say about Jesus? ("This is my Son, who I love. Listen to Him and obey Him.")

Prayer Time

Thank God that He sent Jesus from Heaven to earth to save us. Pray that we will have the faith to know who Jesus is and share our faith with others.

Life Application

Jesus and the three disciples with Him did not stay on the mountain. Eventually, they came back down to be with the other disciples. They continued traveling, and Jesus healed, taught and served. Finally, He died on the cross and rose again.

Sometimes, we have great moments with God. We feel His presence and experience His glory. We want those moments to last forever! But they don't. Eventually, we have to come down from the "mountaintop experience" and continue with our lives. But the time we spent with God helps us to continue to do His will and obey Him.

When we experience those special times with God, He is reminding us of Heaven. If we have accepted Him into our hearts, we can look forward to being with Him forever! We won't have to leave His presence. That is good news. Let's share it!

Planning for Next Lesson
Jesus Has Power Over Evil
Matthew 17:14-23

**Preschool Lesson
for
On the Mountain With God**

Act like you are climbing a mountain. Have the children take some deep breaths and stomp their feet like they are climbing.

Jesus had twelve special friends, called disciples. One day, Jesus took three of His friends, Peter, James and John, and they climbed a mountain. While they were there, Jesus' face began to shine brightly, like the sun! (*Bring a flashlight and shine it on your face*) Then His clothes began to shine as well! It was an amazing sight. But that wasn't all! Two men appeared there with Jesus—Moses and Elijah. These were important men in the Bible. They were very close to God.

A cloud came down around the men and a voice came from the cloud—*God's* voice! God said, "This is my Son, who I love. Listen and obey Him!" When Peter, James and John heard God's voice, they were afraid and they fell to the ground. But Jesus encouraged them. He touched them and told them to get up and not to be afraid. Then the disciples realized that they were alone with Jesus again. Moses and Elijah were gone.

Wow! What an amazing experience for these three men.

Sing "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" or another praise song.

Do you ever wonder about who Jesus is? The Bible says that Jesus came from God and is God. It also says that Jesus became a man and lived here with us. John, the writer of the book of John, says that he **saw** God's glory! This same John was one of the three disciples on the mountain with Jesus. He really *did* experience God's glory! Not only that, but he saw Jesus die on the cross. Three days later, John saw Jesus risen from the dead.

We can experience God's glory, too! When we put our faith in Jesus, He will come into our hearts and give us a new life. He will completely change us. And one day, we will be in Heaven with Him, and will get to see *all* His glory!

Hands-on Activities for On the Mountain with Jesus

Bring playdough or clay and have the kids make a “mountain.” Bring gummy bears, stick pretzels or other treats to represent Jesus and Peter, James and John. Also add two for Moses and Elijah if desired. Then quickly take them off to remember how they suddenly disappeared.

The Bible says that in Heaven, we will not need the sun, because Jesus will be our Light. Find a sun picture or have kids draw and color the sun. Then have them write “Jesus is our Light” in the center of the sun.

God came down in a cloud and spoke to the disciples. Bring cotton balls and make “clouds” by gluing them to construction paper in the shape of a cloud.

“God’s Glory Collage” - Bring nature magazines. Have kids look for beautiful pictures of God’s creation—especially mountain scenes. Talk about how God shows us His glory through the beauty of His creation.

Jesus became very “shiny.” Have the kids draw a picture of Jesus. Bring glitter and have them glue it to Jesus’ clothes.