

Hello Everyone and Happy Valentines Day! Today is also a very special day in our church calendar. Transfiguration Sunday. Well... I know it doesn't sound as exciting but it really is. Jesus takes Peter, James and John up the mountain to pray and recharge, as he often did. But this time, in preparation for the coming dark days of the crucifixion, God send support. Moses and Elijah, prophets from thousands of years before Jesus, were sent to talk to Jesus about God's plan for the future and Jesus' part in it all. They also came to support him and strengthen him. This tells us at least three things. There definitely is a heaven as that is where Moses and Elijah came from. God has a plan even though it may take a long time to come to pass. And God will support you and me, just as He supported His son, through all of our trials and tribulations. Good News!

Enjoy your children's reactions as you tell the story today and do one or both crafts with them.

Blessings to you and your whole family on this Transfiguration Sunday!

Merilee Clarke

Sunday Feb 14th ; Theme Mountain top experiences prepare us for the valleys of every day life. **Object** Some beautiful pictures of mountains **Scripture** After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah." Mark 9:2-5 (NIV)

I have some beautiful pictures to show you this morning. They are pictures of some of the most beautiful mountain peaks you can imagine. Aren't they beautiful? Have you ever taken a vacation in the mountains? Of all the vacations that I have ever taken, the ones that I enjoyed the most were the ones that I took in the mountains.

Why do you think people enjoy vacationing in the mountains? There are several reasons. One reason is that they want to get away from the heat. In the summer months, the heat can become almost unbearable at times. It is refreshing to go up into the mountains where the air is cool. Another reason is to enjoy the beautiful view. When you are down in the valley, it is often difficult to see and appreciate the beauty around you, but from the mountain top, you can clearly see the beauty of the world below. Finally, many people enjoy vacationing in the mountains to get away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. It is good to get away from the pressure of work and busy schedules, and just sit back and relax. When we are enjoying a get away in the mountains, we sometimes find it hard to go back to our day to day life.

Did you know that Jesus enjoyed getting away for a mountain retreat? The Bible tells us that one day Jesus took Peter, James and John high up into the mountains so that they could be alone. **While on the mountain top, Jesus' appearance changed. His clothes became a dazzling white, whiter than any bleach could get them.** Then **Elijah and Moses** came down from heaven and began talking to Jesus. They came to support Jesus and give him some strength for what was to come. We all need help with hard things sometimes, even Jesus needed help from Elijah and Moses.

When things get hard and you are not sure what to do, always ask for help and you can always talk to God about anything.

God was proud of Jesus and He will be proud of you too. This is what He said about Jesus. **"From the cloud came a voice saying, "This is my Son, and I love him. Listen to what he says!"** Jesus always gives good advice.

Dear Father, we are thankful for the wonderful mountain top experiences you give us to help see clearly, make good decisions and be joyful as we walk with you. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Mountain Top Group Group Activities

Interactive Group Activities

Sermon Title: ["On the Mountain Top"](#)

Scripture Reading: Mark 9:2-9

MOUNTAIN BUILDING: Give the children wooden blocks or some plastic containers to build the highest mountain possible without the containers or blocks falling. Talk to the children about the peaks and valley's we may face in our lives and how God renews our strength. The peaks are when we feel closest to God and know he is close by us. The valleys are when we feel scared or sad and pray for God to help us to be brave enough to climb back up that mountain,

MOUNTAIN WALKING: If there is a place with hills, stairs, or ramps for the children to walk up and down on, let them have a "timed event" for walking the "mountains". They'll enjoy seeing what their TIME was for the Mountain climb!

MOUNTAIN BALL THROW: Divide the children into two teams with each team on opposite sides of the church building or another building to try and throw the ball OVER THE MOUNTAIN (the roof). Let the children take turns throwing the ball back and forth saying "OVER THE MOUNTAIN" as the team member is throwing the ball! Let all team members take a turn at throwing the ball.

MOUNTAIN BIKING: Group the children into pairs for the MOUNTAIN BIKING relay game. One child will be the "bike" and the other will be the "rider". The rider will ride his partner piggyback style to the finish line pretending to be riding a bicycle. When they reach the finish line, they will turn around and return to the starting line where they will trade places and repeat the ride. The race is over when each partner has been both the "bike" and the "rider."

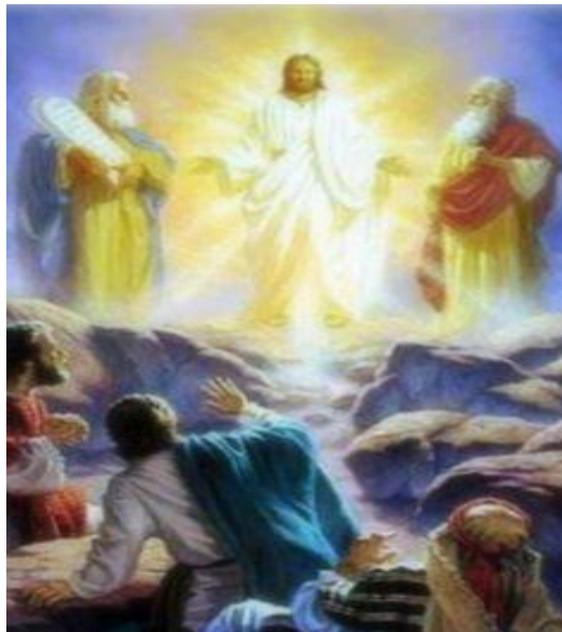
UPSIDE DOWN HEARTS: Let the children cut out various sizes of hearts and glue them onto a piece of construction paper UPSIDE DOWN so the point of the heart will represent mountain peaks. Have the children write GOD LOVES US AND GIVES US COURAGE ON THE MOUNTAIN TOP!

FRAMING A MOUNTAIN: If beautiful pictures are available from old calenders or magazines, let the children pick out a Mountain that they'd like to frame. Give the children some brown construction paper to make a frame and glue it around the edge of the picture .

MOUNTAIN THUMB PRINTS: Have the children draw some mountains on a piece of paper and use their finger or thumb to make prints from ink or paints to represent Elijah and Moses on the mountain. They could also make thumb print figures for John, Peter and James, as well!

LICORICE MOUNTAINS: Give each child some cherry or black licorice to form mountains (after washing hands, of course). After each child tells something they have learned about our lesson today, they can EAT their mountain shape made of licorice! (If you have children who do not like licorice, you can provide another snack.)

Sing a song; Go tell it on the Mountain

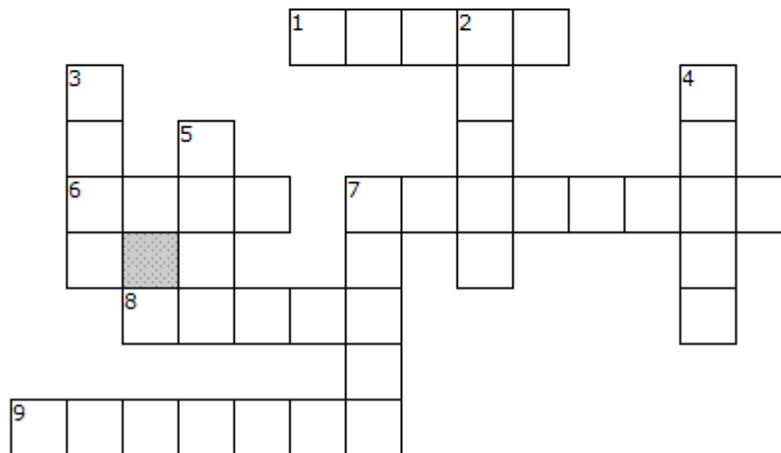




On the Mountain Top

After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. Mark 9:2

Based on Mark 9:2-9



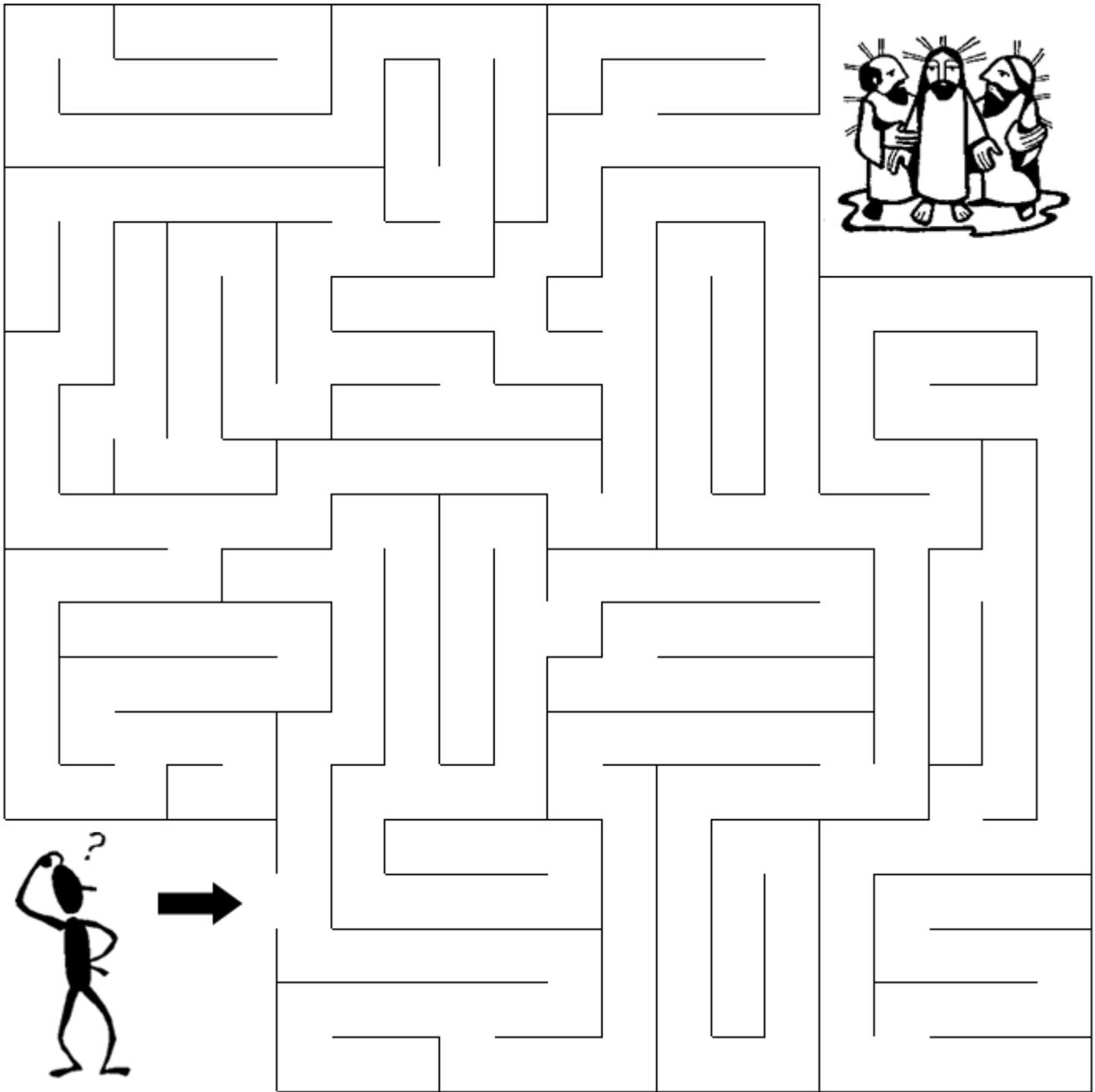
ACROSS

1. The sound produced by the vocal organs; what we use to speak
6. Something that is pleasing, enjoyable, or of high quality
7. A raised part of the earth's surface, larger than a hill
8. The Son of God
9. Articles of apparel such as pants, shirts, dresses, etc.

DOWN

2. A white or gray mass of very small drops of water that floats in the sky
3. Having a great distance from top to bottom
4. The color of snow or milk
5. To have a strong feeling of affection for someone
7. Jewish leader who received the Ten Commandments

CLOTHES	MOUNTAIN	WHITE	LOVE	VOICE
MOSES	CLOUD	JESUS	HIGH	GOOD



Can you find the way to Jesus, Moses, and Elijah on the mountain?

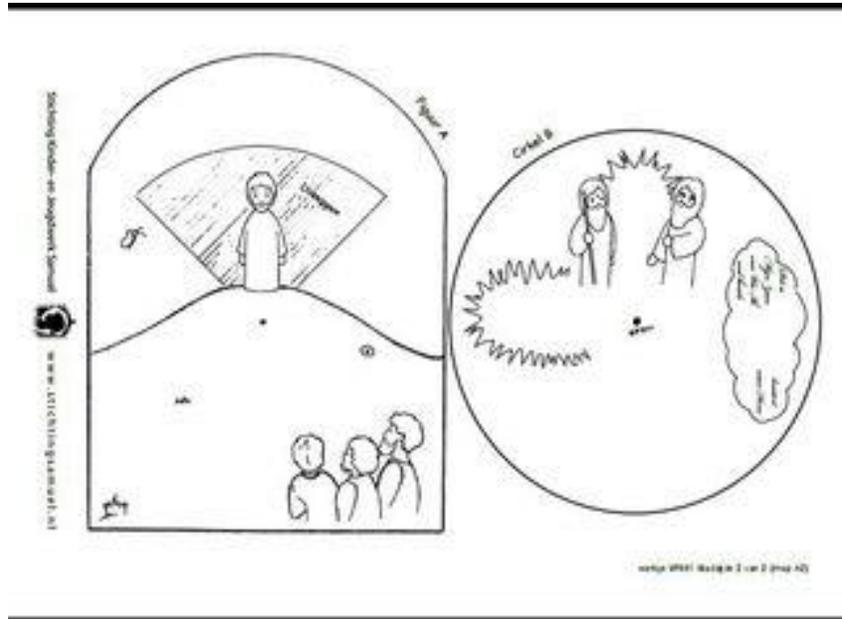
JESUS TRANSFIGURED

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



This craft will be shown on the God's Garden Video this week. You will need one piece of light cardboard, yellow, blue and purple construction paper, scissors and the colour picture on page 3. You will also need something like a brad pin. A bit of pipe cleaner will do or piece of wooden dowel to allow the two pictures to spin around each other. A Circular object like a lunch plate to trace the circle. Markers and glue.

THE TRICKY PART; cutting out the window on the cardboard circle. You may need adult help. See below for the shape and size.



The second Craft today in the Video is in the form of a story book. You will need to print off pages 9, 10, and 11. There are five stories. The story pages have been numbered but you will have to figure out which picture goes with which story. The name of the story is 'A Message for _____ From God'. (fill in your name).

You will also need three pages of computer paper, (white or coloured) one piece of construction paper and a stapler. Markers, scissors and glue. Cut the pictures and the stories out, match them together and glue them in the correct order. Colour the pictures. All the stories have pages have page numbers to keep the stories in order. So, first, write the page numbers on all the pages, then glue the stories on the correct pages. Next, your job is to match the pictures with the story pages.

You may need an adult to read the stories for you as you put the book together. Have Fun!!!



I have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
"If ye have faith ye hope for things which are not
seen, which are true" (Alma 32:21).

The Story of the Prophet Elijah 1440 years before Jesus. 3500 years ago

Elijah **climbed Mount Horeb** to find and talk to God. (Mt. Horeb is an ancient name for Mt. Sinai)

Elijah traveled **40** days and **40** nights to find God.

God fed Elijah by sending ravens and an angel with food for him.

Elijah went to heaven in a chariot of fire!

3

The Story of the Prophet Moses

900 years before Jesus. 3000 years ago

Moses **climbed Mount Sinai** to talk to God.

Moses walked **40** years through the desert because God asked him to lead His people.

God fed Moses and his people with Quail and manna (wafers)

Moses was gently taken to heaven when he finally lead God's people to the

Land of Milk and Honey

5

The Story of Jesus

over 2020 years ago

Jesus **climbed Mount Tabor** to find Elijah and Moses.

Jesus lived **40** days and **40** nights in a desert without food to prepare for the job God gave Him to do. At the end of the 40 days, **God sent an angel to give Jesus food.**

Jesus died on the cross to make a place for us in Heaven with Him.

7

The Day They Met on the Mountain

Peter, James and John were very excited. They were climbing to the top of a mountain with Jesus. When they reached the top they saw that Jesus' face and clothes were shining as bright as the sun! Suddenly, two prophets from thousands of years ago came down from heaven to talk with Him about how God wanted to save the world! Then they heard God's voice saying, "This is my son. I love Him. Listen to what he says."

9

What is a Prophet?

Imagine you had an ant farm. You can see all the little ants scurrying through all the little tunnels they are building. One room for the queen to live. One room for the baby ants. One room for keeping food. It sounds sort of like your house. The big difference is that it is underground and it is tiny. Now imagine that you notice that the tunnels are getting too close together and that there could be a cave-in at the bottom corner of your ant farm. It could kill some ants and hurt others. What can you do to help? You are too big to go in. Your voice would be too loud for them to hear and besides, I don't think you speak ant language.

Pg 1

SEND IN A PROPHET! Choose one ant to hear your warning and send him back to tell the others!!!! Elijah and Moses were two of God's Prophets. He sent many more because the wee little people on earth did not listen very well. So finally, the last prophet He sent was His own son, Jesus.

"Love God and Love one another" was and always will be God's message to us.

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