

A dazzling sight

**Bible verses:**

Mark 9:2-10

Jesus with Moses and Elijah

**Aim:**

To know that Peter, James and John saw Jesus in a new way

**Today's fruit:**

Joy



In today's session we share an amazing moment with Peter, James and John.

After Jesus took them up a mountain, Peter, James and John witnessed something that changed the way they saw Jesus for ever. Today we will learn about what happened and ask God to help us to see him in a new way.

Jesus' disciples must have known joy at this moment of 'knowing' Jesus is God's Son.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Joy*
- Mark 9:2-10 story written simplified on a flip chart (optional) - see Action It
- Resources to film the children retelling the story (optional) - see Action It



Start it

Say:

Today we are going to start with the memory verse we have been learning over the past month.

Ask if any of the children are willing to share the memory verse on their own. If they do, then encourage the rest of the group to give them a huge round of applause. After a few of the children have tried sharing the memory verse on their own, then say it all together.

Memory verse

**'May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
Lord, my rock and my redeemer.'**

(Psalm 19:14 NIV)



Sing it

Say:

In our story today, Peter, James and John saw Jesus in a new way. Our song is a prayer asking God to open our eyes so that we can see him in a new way as well.

Song

'Open the eyes of my heart' by Shout Praises Kids (3:18)



Tell it

If appropriate, discuss with the children what happened in the Bible story from last week's session, telling that the Son of Man must suffer many things (Mark 8:31-38). Explain that this week's story follows on from the events where Jesus had told the disciples that he would die and be raised from the dead.

Say:

In this week's story, Peter, James and John get to witness an amazing event that changes the way that they see Jesus for ever. Let's watch the clip to find out what happens.

Video

The Transfiguration by Saddleback Kids (2:11)

Say:

Our story for this week is found in the book of Mark.

Read:

'Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John and went up on a high mountain. They were all alone there. While these followers watched, Jesus was changed. His clothes became shining white, whiter than any person could make them. Then two men appeared, talking with Jesus. The men were Moses and Elijah.'



‘Peter said to Jesus, “Teacher, it is good that we are here. We will put three tents here – one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” Peter did not know what to say, because he and the others were so frightened.’

(Mark 9:2-6 ICB)

Ask:

- How do you react when you see something that you do not understand?
- Why do you think Peter, James and John were so afraid?
- How would you have reacted if you had been with Peter, James and John?
- What did Peter suggest that they should do? Why do you think he suggested this?

Say:

Even though they were frightened, Peter, James and John realised that they were in the presence of God. Peter wanted to make three tents, possibly so that the men would stay there and this amazing moment would last longer.

Ask:

Have you ever been in a situation where you were so excited that you didn’t want it to end? Share it with the rest of the group.

Say:

Unfortunately, this special moment couldn’t last for ever. Let’s look at the book of Mark to see what happened next.

Read:

‘Then a cloud came and covered them. A voice came from the cloud. The voice said, “This is my Son, and I love him. Obey him!”

‘Then Peter, James, and John looked around, but they saw only Jesus there alone with them.

‘As Jesus and his followers were walking back down the mountain, he commanded them, “Don’t tell anyone about the things you saw on the mountain. Wait till the Son of Man rises from death. Then you may tell.”

‘So the followers obeyed Jesus and said nothing about what they had seen. But they discussed what Jesus meant about rising from death.’

(Mark 9:7-10 ICB)

Ask:

How did the voice from Heaven describe Jesus?

Say:

In that moment the disciples heard directly from God about the identity of Jesus. Any doubts they might have had about who he was must have disappeared when they heard the voice of God say, ‘This is my Son, and I love him. Obey him!’ (Mark 9:7 ICB)

Ask:

How do you think Peter, James and John felt when they heard the voice of God talk about Jesus?

Display the *Joy* sign.

Say:

When we realise who Jesus is and decide to follow him, we are filled with his joy. This joy continues to grow in our hearts, just like fruit on a branch.

Jesus mentioned again that he would die and be raised from the dead. It must have been very confusing for Peter, James and John.

Ask:

Why do you think Jesus asked the disciples not to tell anyone what had happened?

Say:

It must have been very difficult for Peter, James and John to keep what had happened to themselves, but they did what Jesus asked.

Action it

Explain that the children are going to recreate the story to help them remember what happened. Read through each section of the Scripture below and ask the children to create actions for each part. Depending on your group, you may want to simplify the story into smaller chunks and write these on a flip chart before creating the actions.

'Six days later Jesus took Peter, James, and John and went up on a high mountain. They were all alone there. While these followers watched, Jesus was changed. His clothes became shining white, whiter than any person could make them. Then two men appeared, talking with Jesus. The men were Moses and Elijah.'

'Peter said to Jesus, "Teacher, it is good that we are here. We will put three tents here – one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Peter did not know what to say, because he and the others were so frightened.'

'Then a cloud came and covered them. A voice came from the cloud. The voice said, "This is my Son, and I love him. Obey him!"'

'Then Peter, James, and John looked around, but they saw only Jesus there alone with them.'

'As Jesus and his followers were walking back down the mountain, he commanded them, "Don't tell anyone about the things you saw on the mountain. Wait till the Son of Man rises from death. Then you may tell."'

'So the followers obeyed Jesus and said nothing about what they had seen. But they discussed what Jesus meant about rising from death.'

(Mark 9:2-10 *ICB*)

Once you have created the actions, practise them together to help the children remember the story. If you have the correct permissions in place, then you may want to film the children as they tell the story and share it with the wider church community.

Pray it

Say:

Throughout our sessions this month, we have been thinking about sight.

- In our first session, Jesus healed Bartimaeus and he was able to see again.
- In our second session, the servant had his eyes opened and realised that he needed to use his talents and gifts wisely.
- In our third session, we were able to see the importance of putting Jesus first and living our lives for him.
- This week, the disciples witnessed an event that meant that they would never see Jesus in the same way again.

Say:

To bring our session to a close, we are going to spend some time quietly thinking about new ways that we could see Jesus.

Earlier in the session, the children sang a lively version of the song 'Open the eyes of my heart'. To bring the session to a close, they are going to listen to a more reflective version.

Depending on space and the dynamics of the group, ask the children to find a quiet space to close their eyes. Ask them to listen carefully to the words of the music and spend time in prayer. The clip is around three minutes long, but you can fade out the song earlier if you feel that the group are getting restless.

Listen

'Open the eyes of my heart' by 7 Hills Worship (3:01)

When the music finishes, bring the session to a close in prayer.

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.

Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

A dazzling sight

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:
Mark 9:2-10



Aim:
To know that Peter, James and John saw Jesus in a new way



Today's fruit:
Joy



Draw

To remind you of everything we have learned this month, draw a detailed picture of an eye. Use the clip to help you.

How to draw eyes step by step - for kids with project ideas, by Mr Schuette's Art Class



Share

In our session this week, the disciples saw an amazing event that they didn't want to end. Chat with the people at home and find out what exciting moment they have experienced that they wished would never end. How did this moment fill them with joy?



Song for the week

'Open the eyes of my heart' by Shout Praises Kids (3:18)



Memory verse

'May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my rock and my redeemer.'

(Psalm 19:14 NIV)

**LIVING
OUT FAITH**

Kids Alive! Online - salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive

Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic - is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

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Memory verse

'May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my rock and my redeemer.'

(Psalm 19:14 NIV)



Start it

After Jesus took them up a mountain, Peter, James and John saw something that changed the way they looked at Jesus for ever. Today, we will find out what happened in this exciting story.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Mark 9:2-10 or watch the following clip.

The Transfiguration by Saddleback Kids (2:11)

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- Why did Peter, James and John climb up the mountain? What were they going to do there?
- What happened to Jesus at the top of the mountain? Who else appeared?
- How did Peter, James and John react to what they saw?

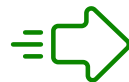
- What did God say from the cloud?
- Why did Jesus ask Peter, James and John to keep quiet about what had happened at the top of the mountain?



Sing It

'Shine! (from the inside out)' by Nick Jackson uploaded by Tangy Crayfish (2:20)

'Holy Spirit' for children by Aji and her friends. Sing only the chorus (0:44-1:15)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Act out part of the story and see if your friends can guess which part it is.
- Choose your favourite part of the story and create a picture of it.
- Using chalk on a dark piece of paper, create a picture showing Jesus as a bright shining light on the mountaintop.
- When they came back down the mountain, Peter, James and John were excited to tell everyone what had happened. Think of one exciting thing you would love to tell everyone else. Imagine how you would feel if someone said you needed to keep quiet about it.