



02.07.10/ Mark 9:2-13

Materials Needed

nature magazines, scissors, paper, glue

Opening Activity and Discussion:

Tell the children that tonight we are going to hear a story about Jesus showing his glory high on a mountain to 3 of his closest friends. Discuss how God often uses the beauty of his creation to show us his glory. Ask children if they have ever hiked to a high place or climbed to the top of a mountain – the view is usually amazing! We can look down below into the valley and see its beauty in a new way – a way that we cannot see when we are down below. Children can feel free to recount stories of seeing the beauty in God’s creation. Flip through the magazines, cutting out beautiful natural scenes and pasting them together in a collage.

Read Mark 9:2-13

“And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah and Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. And Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.” For he did not know what to say, for they were terrified. And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.” And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, he charged them to tell no one what they had seen, until the Son of Man had risen from the dead. So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead might mean. And they asked him, “Why do the scribes say that first Elijah must come?” And he said to them, “Elijah does come first to restore all things. And how is it written of the Son of Man that he should suffer many things and be treated with contempt? But I tell you that Elijah has come, and they did to him whatever they pleased, as it is written of him.”

Question 1: Why do you think Jesus led the three disciples up onto a high mountain? *Allow children to answer on their own. Possible ideas - often we can see God more clearly when we get away from the distractions of our everyday life – in a peaceful, quiet place where we can focus solely on God. Perhaps by taking them to a remote location, Jesus wanted to get rid of any “distractions” in the disciples’ life.*

Question 2: When Jesus became radiant and his clothes became white, Moses and Elijah appeared with him. Why were they important to the story? *Moses and Elijah represented the Old Testament hope for God’s kingdom. God had used them to tell others about the Messiah (Jesus) who would come to save God’s people, so their appearing on the mountain proclaimed that Jesus was in fact the Messiah. God himself also spoke confirmation of Jesus’ identity as Messiah when he told them, “This is my beloved Son; listen to him.”*

Peter was so excited that he wanted everyone to build shelters and stay on the mountain. However, Jesus did not intend for them to stay up on the mountaintop forever. Eventually, they came back down and continued travelling, healing, and spreading the Gospel with the other disciples.

Question 3:

Why couldn’t the disciples stay up on the mountaintop? *Jesus brought them up on the mountain for a very specific purpose – to reveal his glory. Because Jesus is all-powerful and glorious, He has the power to save us from our sin, and He was on a mission that needed to continue. It was never His intention for them to stay. Jesus knew that their experience on the mountaintop would*



strengthen the disciples' faith during the difficult days that were ahead of them, and He knew that God the Father was calling Him to continue His work to defeat death and sin by dying on the cross and being raised from the dead as He speaks about!

Discussion:

Sometimes we have great moments with God. We feel His presence and experience his glory in a very real way. It is very tempting to try and make those moments last forever! But they don't – eventually we have to come down from those "mountaintop" experiences and continue with our lives. Ask everyone to share of a time that they had a "mountaintop" experience with God. What made it so special? How did God reveal himself to you?

Other times in our lives, God might seem far away, and we might have a hard time "feeling" his presence. We might refer to those times as "valleys", times when it is hard to see God and hard to know his plan. Have you ever had times where you did not feel very close to God? Now think back to some of the "mountaintop" experiences we discussed - What did God teach you during those experiences that might help you stay encouraged during some of the "valleys" you might go through during life? God is the same no matter what we are feeling. If we're feeling wonderful and close to Him, He's good and perfect. If we're feeling bad and far from him, He's good and perfect. He is so reliable when we are not, and this is great news!

Wrap Up:

When we experience those special times with God, he is showing us a taste of what it will be like to be with Him forever without sin. If we have accepted God's gift of free salvation and asked him to cover our sins with Jesus' blood, then one day we will be in His presence without sin getting in the way at all! We won't ever have to leave the presence of God, and can look forward to being with Him forever! As we close in prayer, thank God for both the mountaintop experiences that renew our strength, as well as the valleys (hard times when God might feel distant) that God uses in our lives to make us grow in our faith as we learn to trust Him no matter what. Praise God!