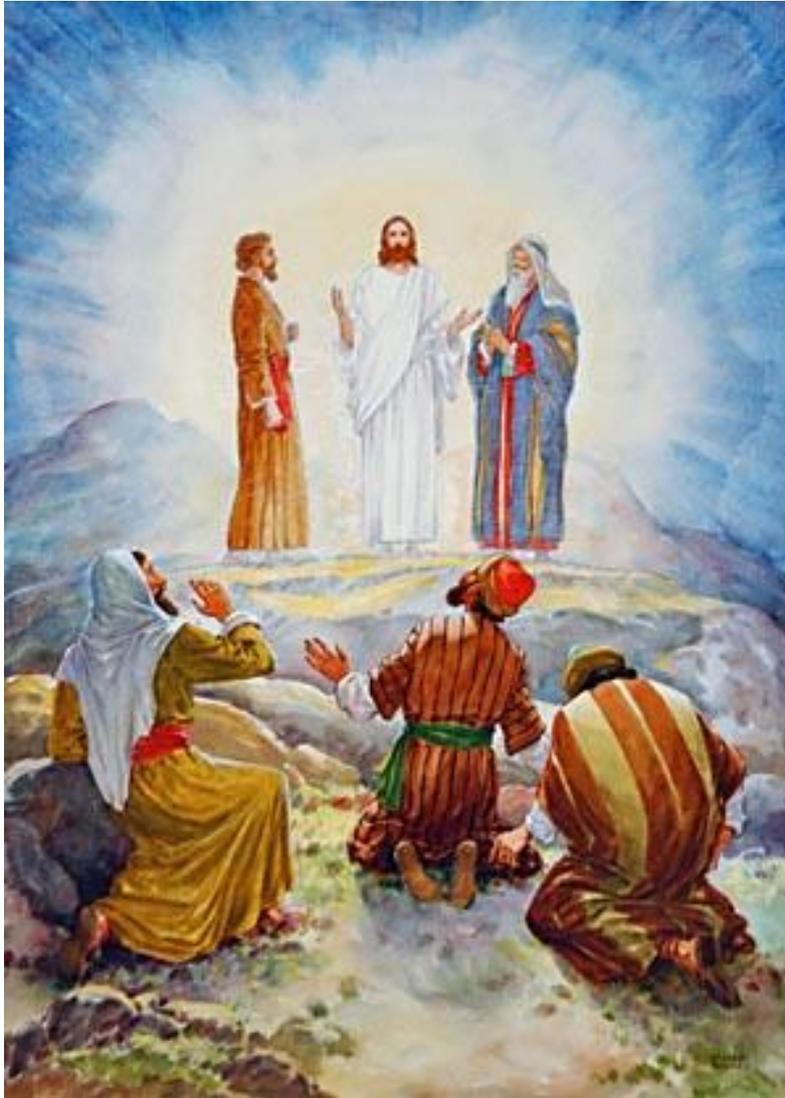


SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14TH

The setting of this story is on a high mountain. This tells Mark's hearers straight away that something remarkable is about to happen.



Gospel reading Mark 9.2-9

Tuesday February 16th is Pancake Day

**Wednesday February 17th is Ash Wednesday and
the beginning of Lent**

May God be our strength this week. May Jesus bless us in a new way.
And may the Holy Spirit bring us a 'wow' moment to celebrate and to share.

Amen.

Gathering song

Sing to the tune: *My God is so big, so strong and so mighty*

This story's so big, so good and amazing, it tells us that Jesus is king.

Transforming his face, his clothes and his body
so everyone knows he is king.

Yes, Jesus is good, his love is so good – his acts are amazing and new.

This story's so big, so good and amazing, it tells us that Jesus is king.

Stop and share

- Explore with your family what they think the word 'transfigured' might mean and how Jesus might have looked.
- The disciples knew that Moses had led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, and that Elijah had been a great prophet who told people about the things of God.

Use facial expressions

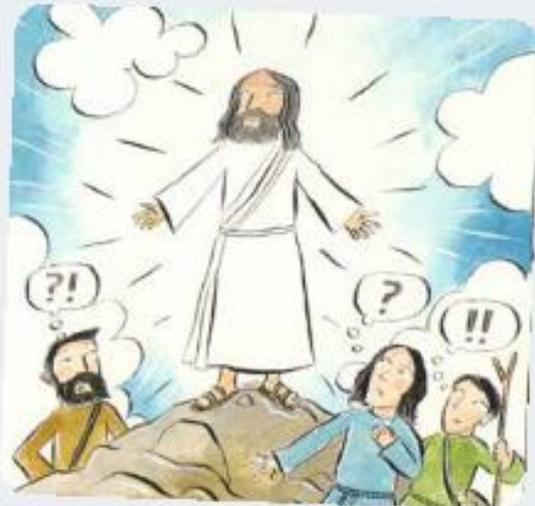
- Practise making faces for these emotions: tired, amazed, terrified, confused, puzzled.
- Encourage everyone to make the appropriate face when the word is said as you read the story.

Up the high mountain they went: Jesus, Peter, James and John. Up and up they climbed. The disciples were tired. And then, suddenly, before their very eyes, Jesus was transfigured! He was changed; radiant and brighter than the sun. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than the whitest they had ever seen.

The disciples were amazed! And as they watched, two other figures appeared: the prophet Elijah, and Moses, the great leader of the Israelites. They were talking with Jesus. The disciples were terrified! They didn't know what to say. Suddenly, Peter spoke up: 'Let's build shelters! Let's build three shelters, right here! One for Moses, one for Elijah and one for Jesus.'

And as they stood, a cloud overshadowed them. And from the cloud a voice spoke to them: 'This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.' Suddenly, there was no one there any more, only Jesus. The disciples were confused. But they knew they had glimpsed something amazing. So they set off back down the mountain: Jesus, Peter, James and John.

Jesus said that they were to tell no one what they had seen. Not until after he had risen from the dead. The disciples were puzzled. But they kept the secret. **Mark 9:2-9**



 See Share the Word.

Mark 9.2-9

The setting of this story is on a high mountain. This tells Mark's hearers straight away that something remarkable is about to happen. God meets Elijah (1 Kings 19.8) and Moses (Exodus 19.3) on the mountain-top. And the revelation could not have come at a more appropriate time. Jesus has just turned the disciples' thinking upside down. Peter finds words to articulate who Jesus is: 'You are the Messiah' (8.29), Jesus accepts this, but then tells them of his forthcoming suffering and death. He fiercely rebukes Peter's incredulity (8.33), but the disciples must have found it impossible to grasp this unimaginable future. Suddenly, there is tragedy ahead, but the glory of Jesus' true being is also revealed to them.

This story is told from the perspective of the disciples. They see Jesus changed in ways they can only describe by saying that his clothes became brilliantly white. They see two of the greatest figures from the history of Israel speaking to Jesus as equals. And they are terrified! Peter stammers out words that reveal his yearning for this moment to go on for ever. He must have regretted the words as soon as they left his mouth – yet what words could be adequate to this experience? Peter's stumbling words are eclipsed by the voice of God. Cloud comes down on the mountain – Jewish tradition linked cloud and the glory of God (Exodus 40.34) – and from the cloud, God speaks. God's words at Jesus' baptism (1.11) were spoken to Jesus, but these are addressed to the disciples. God's voice gives the disciples the words to make sense of what they have seen – this has happened because Jesus really is the Son of God – and they are reassured that they should listen to him. Finally, as they return to 'real life' at the foot of the mountain, Jesus tells them to share this with no one, picking up on Mark's theme of secrecy until the full revelation of Jesus' identity in the crucifixion.

May God be our strength this week.

May Jesus bless us in a new way.

And may the Holy Spirit bring us

a 'wow' moment

to celebrate and to share.

Amen.

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

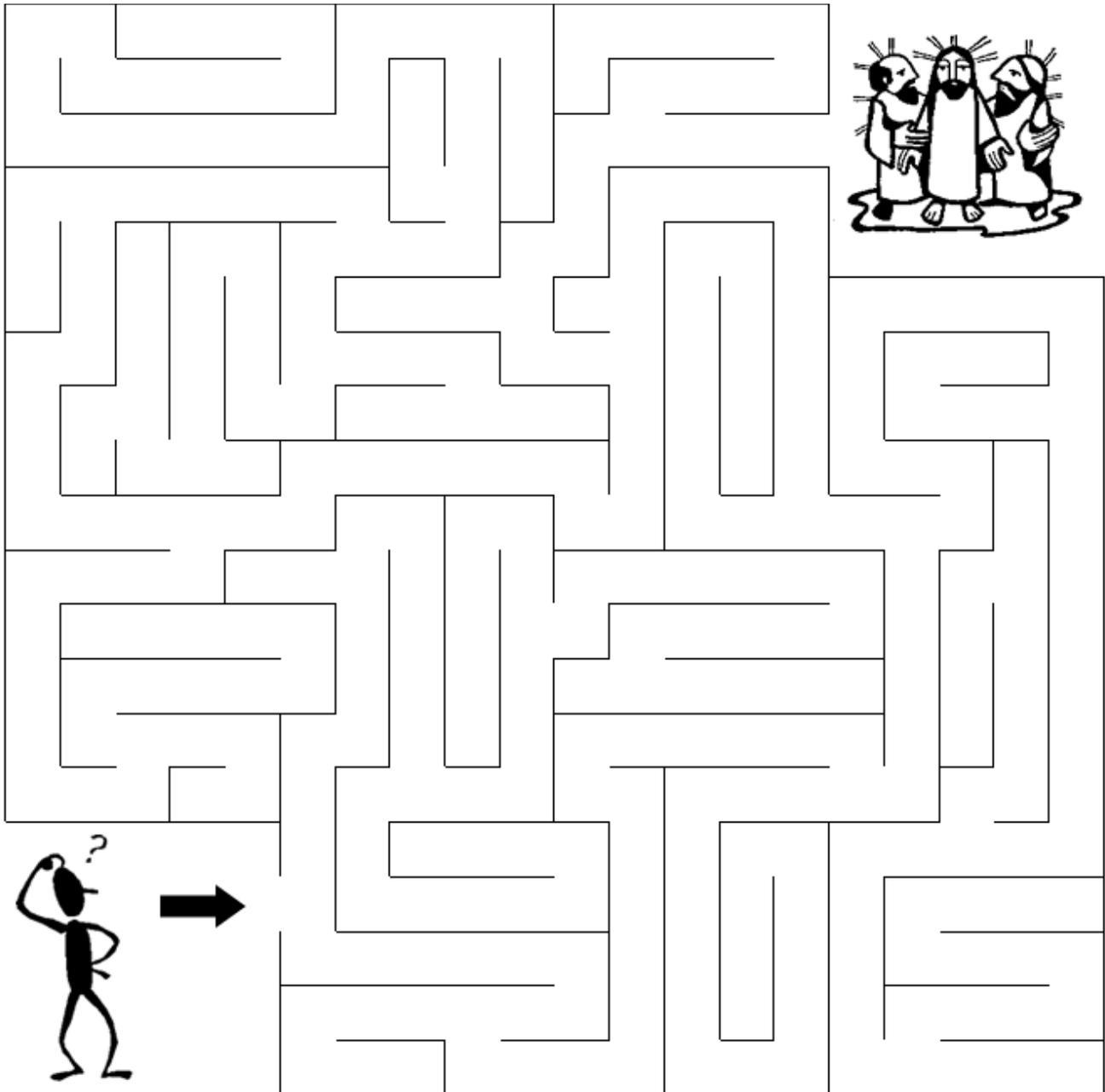


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DAYS	JOHN	APPEARED	CLOTHES	BLEACH
HIGH	RABBI	MOSES	GOOD	VOICE
PETER	WHITE	LOVE	SIX	ALONE
ELIJAH	WORLD	DAZZLING	MOUNTAIN	JAMES

ACTIVITIES

If you have stairs at home go up slowly and imagine you are climbing the mountain with Jesus. Walk slowly back down – did it feel the same when the disciples walked back down?
If you don't have stairs walk round slowly and imagine yourself in the story. Think about what happened and then how you think it must have felt to be there to see it



Can you find your way to Jesus, Moses and Elijah?

A picture for you to colour



The Mount of Transfiguration
Mark 9:2-9



If you look very carefully can you see a church on top of this mountain? To get to the Church of The Transfiguration you have to go up this mountain called Mount Tabor. When we were fortunate enough to go we were driven up in a taxi and I have to say it did not go slow despite the large drops on the sides and very sharp bends!! Looking at the picture where you can see the zigzags these are the road we travelled on! However the ride to the top was worth it.

We had a service standing on the path below before visiting the Church of The Transfiguration which is the church at the top of Mount Tabor. When we returned to the bottom of the mountain it was a very quick journey again even with the taxis passing each other. One of our passengers (John) looked quite white so we had sat him in between 2 of us ladies as he didn't have a head for heights and looking over the sides – he still hasn't!!



St Valentine

I am sure you all know that today is also Valentine's Day so I guess you have had your cards, chocolates and flowers!

Not much is known about St Valentine apart from the fact that he was a Roman saint in the early church. Church historians discovered that a 4th century church was built on the Flaminian Way which is the main road north out of Rome. It was built in honour of a priest called Valentine who was beheaded there in the year 269 which was during the persecutions under the Roman emperor known as Claudius the Goth. The story is complicated as a second martyr called Valentine is commemorated on the same day. This martyr was a bishop and was put to death in a different district of Rome. There could have been 2 saints but it is likely that one person called Valentine was martyred and 2 traditions grew up about him. There is nothing about this saint that connects him with sending cards etc on February 14th! It may be linked to an old idea that birds always begin to pair on this date and that some birds when they mate stay faithful to their partner which is a good symbol because love is at the heart of Jesus' teaching. Sending cards is a way of telling people they are special. In the Bible Jesus pointed out that everyone is special.

When you love someone you take care of them and this is what God does.

Cut this heart out and decorate it (on red card or white to decorate) and then give it to someone who is special to you. Make as many as you need for all the people who are special to you.

