

Use Week of:

## Unit 24 • Session 4

# Jesus Showed His Glory

### BIBLE PASSAGE:

Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9

### STORY POINT:

Jesus showed His glory to Peter, James, and John.

### KEY PASSAGE:

Psalms 40:5

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.

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Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit [ministrygrid.com/thegospelproject](http://ministrygrid.com/thegospelproject).

## LEADER Bible Study

As Jesus traveled and taught, people were trying to figure Him out. Who was this man? Was He a prophet? Was He crazy? Where did He come from? Some people thought He was John the Baptist who had been raised from the dead; others thought He was Elijah or another ancient prophet. Peter recognized Jesus as God's Messiah. (See Luke 9:19-20.)

One of the ways Jesus revealed His identity was through His miracles. Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people. For three of Jesus' disciples—Peter, James, and John—Jesus' identity became even more clear when they witnessed His transfiguration, or change in appearance. The disciples accompanied Jesus to a mountain to pray. The location was likely Mount Hermon, which sits about 40 miles north of the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus' appearance changed as He prayed: His face changed and His clothes became dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appeared with Him, and they talked about Jesus' upcoming departure (His death and resurrection). Peter, James, and John had been sleeping, but they awoke to the incredible sight.

When you teach, review who Moses and Elijah were. In the Old Testament, God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Later, Elijah was a prophet to Israel. As Moses and Elijah were leaving, a cloud covered the whole group and a voice—God the Father's—said, "This is my Son, the Chosen One; listen to him!"

At the transfiguration, Peter, James, and John beheld Jesus' glory. We look forward to the day when Jesus will return in full glory to make all things new. While we wait, God calls us to share the gospel with others so they can share in the joy of knowing Jesus, the Son of God, and seeing His glory when He returns.

# The BIBLE Story

## Jesus Showed His Glory

*Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9*

One day, Jesus led three of His disciples—Peter, James, and John—up on a high mountain to pray. The disciples fell fast asleep. As Jesus prayed, His appearance suddenly changed. His face was shining like the sun, and His clothes were as white as the light. The disciples woke up and saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus.

Peter said, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If You want, I will set up three tents here: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud suddenly covered them. A voice from the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him!” The disciples heard this and fell facedown. They were terrified!

Jesus came up and touched them. “Get up,” He said. “Don’t be afraid.” When the disciples looked up, they did not see Moses or Elijah anymore. They only saw Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus said to them, “Don’t tell anyone what you saw until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.”

The disciples did not tell anyone, but they wondered what Jesus



meant. They asked Him, “Why do the scribes say that Elijah must come before the Messiah comes?”

**Jesus explained that** Elijah had already come—that is, **a prophet like Elijah had come.** The people did not recognize him as a prophet, and they mistreated him. Jesus said, “In the same way, the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.” **Then the disciples realized Jesus was talking about John the Baptist.**

*Christ Connection: Jesus showed His glory to Peter, James, and John. Jesus said He would die, rise from the dead, and return to heaven. One day, Jesus will come back to earth in His glory to make all things new.*

## **Bible Storytelling Tips**

- **Display art:** Show the Bible story picture and point to the people as they appear in the story.
- **Use lighting effects:** Shine a spotlight or other bright light when telling about Jesus' appearance on the mountain.

# INTRODUCE the Story



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**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.

## Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to discuss what they would do if they climbed or hiked to the top of a mountain.

**SAY** • When you are at the top of a mountain, you can often see things you never would have thought you could see when you were on the ground below. Today, we will learn about a time three of Jesus' closest friends and followers saw something miraculous at the top of a mountain. What do you think they might have seen?

## Activity page (5 minutes)

- "To the Top" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the "To the Top" activity page. Challenge kids to start at the bottom of the mountain and follow the maze to find a path to the top of the mountain.

**SAY** • Did you notice that on the activity page, Jesus was standing at the top of that mountain? Today, we will hear about a time He went up a mountain with some of His disciples to show them something wonderful. What do you think Jesus might have shown them?

## Session starter (10 minutes)

### OPTION 1: Light or dim

Print and cut apart the “Light or Dim” printable. Display all the cards and direct kids to work together to sort the cards based on whether the picture depicts something bright or dim.

**LOW  
PREP**

• “Light or Dim”  
printable

**SAY** • Sometimes, what we think is bright or dim depends on what our eyes are used to seeing. A flashlight may seem bright on a dark night when the power goes out. But in the middle of a sunny day, the same light might seem dim. Today we will learn about a time Jesus shone brighter than just about anything we could imagine. Why do you think Jesus might shine brightly?

### OPTION 2: Suncatchers

Provide each kid with two sheets of clear contact plastic. Help the kids remove the backing from one. Show them how to tear bits of tissue paper and stick them to the contact plastic. Instruct the kids to leave about a half-inch border around the edge. When kids finish sticking bits of colored tissue paper to their first sheet, help them remove the back from the second sheet and place it over the first sheet so that the two sticky sides are facing inwards, sealing the tissue paper inside.

• clear contact plastic,  
2 sheets per kid  
• various colors of  
tissue paper  
• scissors

**SAY** • These suncatchers will look beautiful when sunlight shines through them. Today we will learn about a time Jesus shone brightly with glory. What do you think that would have been like to see?

## Transition to teach the story

# TEACH the Story



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## Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

## Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire

*[Leader enters wearing business casual attire and a hands-free telephone headset.]*

**LEADER** • Hi there, friends. Welcome back to Graceful

Getaways. I just got done booking a special trip for a customer who wanted to go to Utqiagvik (OOT-kee-AH-vik), a city in Alaska. It used to be called Barrow, but that's less fun to say, if you ask me.

Anyway, she wanted to go there because it is the northernmost city in the entire USA! It's so far north that during the spring and summer, from about May 12 until about July 31, the sun never actually sets! It stays in the sky, only barely touching the horizon. She's hoping to see the special "midnight sun," and Utqiagvik is one of the few places in the world where it happens. I told her going there during the summer was a real *bright* idea! Get it?

But as bright as it might be to have 80 days of

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.



continuous daytime, that pales in comparison to the brightness of Jesus' full glory. The Bible contains an amazing story that tells us about a time Jesus allowed three of His disciples to see a glimpse of His glory.

### Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • We've been studying a big picture question and answer about Jesus' miracles. Remember that a miracle is something done by God's power that would normally be impossible. ***Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.*** When Jesus did impossible things, it proved that He has power over creation. It demonstrated that He is God the Son. He also used miracles to meet people's needs for food, healing, and safety.

### Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review. -Giant Timeline

**LEADER** • We learned that **Jesus calmed a storm to show the disciples He is God.** He protected His disciples from sinking and showed His power. We also talked about the time **Jesus miraculously fed a crowd with five loaves and two fish.** Again, Jesus was showing compassion on the hungry people and proving that He is God. When another storm put the disciples in danger, **Jesus showed He is God by walking on water.** They all worshiped Him and glorified God after that. This week, we will look at a story called "Jesus Showed His Glory."



- Bibles
- “Jesus Showed His Glory” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

## Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Showed His Glory.”

### LEADER • Jesus showed His glory to Peter, James, and

**John.** Mark wrote that Jesus’ clothing was whiter than any person could get them no matter how he or she washed them. Matthew explained that Jesus’ face shone like the sun! It would have been an incredible sight. Jesus’ glory is bright and intense, but it’s more than just a light.

Jesus’ glory is sort of like a combination of many different, wonderful things about Him. His glory is the intensity of His goodness. It is the depth of His love. It is the fullness of His holiness. It is the height of His fame. It is the length of His endlessness. It is also the majesty of His power. Jesus is the greatest treasure in the world.

Jesus is more than a good man or a wise teacher, He is God the Son. The Bible tells us He is the image of the invisible God. He is the King of kings. All things were created by Him and for Him. Without Him, all of creation could no longer exist. When Peter, James, and John saw Jesus in His glory, they saw who Jesus really is more clearly than they ever had before.

## Christ connection

### LEADER • Jesus showed His glory to Peter, James, and

**John.** Jesus said He would die, rise from the dead, and return to heaven. One day, Jesus will come back

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

to earth in His glory to make all things new.

This story tells of the first time Jesus revealed His glory to humans, but it will not be the last time humans see Jesus in glory. When Jesus returns to earth wearing bright white clothing and shining brighter than the sun, He will destroy all evil and fix everything wrong in the world. Everyone who has faith in Jesus will receive new, glorified bodies to live forever with God.

### Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 24, Session 4” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about God’s glory. Guide them to discuss how we can show God’s glory to others.

· “Unit 24, Session 4”  
Questions from Kids  
video



### Missions moment (3 minutes)

Display the photos from the “They Need Jesus” printable. Read the story from the printable.

· “They Need Jesus”  
printable

**LEADER • Jesus showed His glory to Peter, James, and**

**John.** Missionaries in Myanmar want the people there to see the glory of Jesus, too. When people feel hopeless, Jesus can bring them hope. That’s very good news for all people. When people find hope in Jesus, He is glorified. One day, Jesus will return in His glory to make all things new. People from every tongue, tribe, and nation will worship Him as King!

Pray for missionaries in Myanmar and that the people who hear the good news about Jesus would trust in Him.

### Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Psalm 40:5 Then sing the key passage song.

· Key Passage Poster  
· “None Can  
Compare with You  
(Psalm 40:5)” song

**LEADER** • This key passage helps us think about God. His plans and actions are perfect and righteous. We can praise Him for doing what is best.

### **Sing (4 minutes)**

• “Just As I Am” song

**LEADER** • Jesus loves us just as we are, but when we have faith in Him, He does not leave us the way we are. Instead, He changes us to be more and more like Him. Someday He will return and give us glorified bodies to live with God forever in His perfectly restored world.

Sing together “Just As I Am.”

### **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • Lord, help us glorify You. Give us wisdom to obey and courage to tell others about You. We know that we can only imagine how wonderful You are. Help us live in hope for the time when Jesus will return to fix everything wrong. Amen.

### **Dismiss to apply the story**

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

# APPLY the Story



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## Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- playground ball

Instruct the kids to line up in a single file. Give a playground ball to the first kid in the line. He will pass the ball under his legs to the kid behind him, who will pass it over her head to the kid behind her. Each time a kid passes the ball, she should say a word from the key passage in order. Play multiple rounds. If your group has fewer kids than words in the key passage, kids must move to the back of the line after saying their word.

**SAY** • Psalm 40:5 tells us that God's works and plans are wonderful. We see this very clearly in Jesus' ministry. Jesus taught about God and met people's needs in miraculous ways. ***Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.***

## Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970, optional)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Luke 9. Review which division of the Bible Luke is in. (*New Testament, Gospels*) Ask which other books are in the Gospels and what the division contains. (*Matthew, Mark, John; accounts of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection*)

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Where did Jesus show His glory? (*at the top of a mountain, Mark 9:2*)
2. Who stood with Jesus in glory? (*Moses and Elijah, Mark 9:4*)
3. What did the voice tell Peter, James, and John to do? (*listen to Jesus, Mark 9:7*)
4. Why do you think Jesus chose to reveal His glory to Peter, James, and John? *Discuss those three disciples' role as leaders among the disciples. Help the kids understand that they were Jesus' closest friends as well as some of His most loyal followers. Help them understand that showing His glory to them was a way to help them see that He truly is God's Son.*
5. How should we respond to Jesus? *Guide kids to discuss appropriate ways we might respond to the good news about Jesus. Talk to the kids about what it would look like to feel overjoyed, humbled, and awestruck. Remind the kids that part of our response to Jesus is loving obedience to His commands, including a desire to tell others about Him.*
6. How do you feel when you think of Jesus' return? *Help the kids process through the different emotions they may feel about Jesus' return. Remind them that everyone who has faith in Jesus will be glorified with Him and live forever with God. Focus on Jesus' return as our source of hope.*

**SAY** • One of Jesus' most impressive miracles happened when **Jesus showed His glory to Peter, James, and John.** Jesus wanted them to know for sure that He is God. Jesus will return in glory someday to restore the world and destroy all evil.



## LOW PREP

- “Prayer Reminders” printable
- scissors
- crayons or markers
- other craft supplies (optional)

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

- variety of glow-in-the-dark objects

### Activity choice (10 minutes)



#### OPTION 1: Remember to pray

Before the session, make copies of the “Prayer Reminders” printable and cut apart the cards.

Invite each kid to choose a card to decorate. As kids color their cards, discuss ways that they can share Jesus’ love in their community. (*Invite people to church, be kind and generous to restaurant servers, say “hello” and smile, tell people that Jesus loves them, and so forth.*) Ask volunteers to read the statements on their cards.

**SAY** • Just like people of Myanmar need Jesus, people right in our neighborhood need Jesus too. When we look for ways to show God’s love to others and tell them about Jesus’ death and resurrection, we are living on mission. Whether God calls you to a faraway nation or to your next door neighbors, we can all be part of God’s wonderful plan for the world.

#### OPTION 2: Glow in the dark

Provide a variety of glow-in-the-dark objects. Invite the kids to play with the objects. Occasionally dim or turn out the lights so the kids can see how brightly the items glow and how quickly they fade.

**SAY** • Glow-in-the-dark objects cannot shine unless they absorb the light-energy of other sources of light. Even after absorbing that energy, they quickly give off all the light they were able to store. In a way, these objects can help us think about the way we “shine” for Jesus.

We cannot give off any light apart from Jesus. In our story, **Jesus showed His glory to Peter, James, and John**, and it shone as bright as the sun. When

we believe the truth of the gospel, it transforms our lives so that we become lights in the world. But how brightly we shine depends a lot on how much time we spend with Jesus, the source of our light. We study our Bibles, pray, and fellowship with other believers to help us grow in our relationship with Jesus, so that we can shine His light onto everyone we meet.

### **Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)**

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

*Tip: Give parents this week's Big Picture Cards for Families to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.*