

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. For free training and session-by-session help, visit ministrygrid.com/gospelproject.

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.

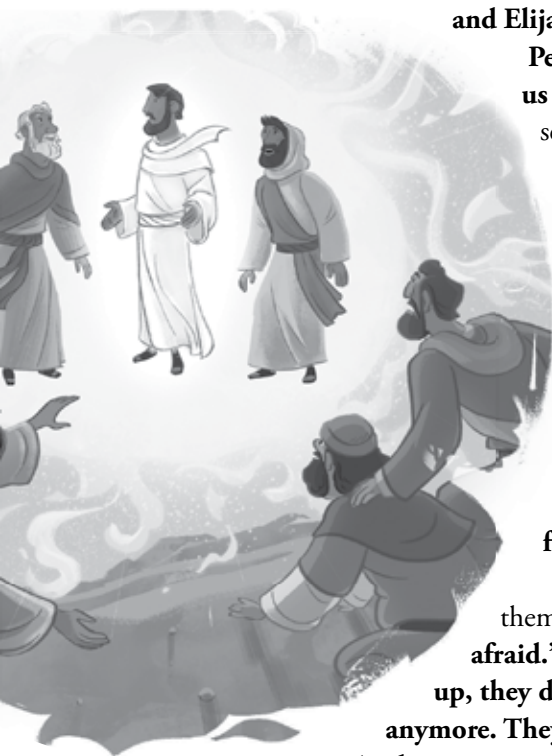
Peter said, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If You want, I will set up three tents here: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

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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KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 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.

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 tell about a time they took a trip with friends (field trip, vacation, or so forth). What made the trip memorable?

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Up on a Mountain” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete “Up on a Mountain” on the activity page. Guide kids to use the clues to match each description with the correct person.

SAY • Moses’ and Elijah’s stories can be found in the Old Testament. God spoke to Moses through a burning bush, and Moses led God’s people out of Egypt. Elijah was a prophet to Israel who went to heaven in a whirlwind. Moses and Elijah both appear in today’s Bible story with Jesus! We will find out what happened.

**LOW
PREP**

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Simon switch

Instruct kids to stand in a circle. Play a traditional game

of “Simon Says.” If Simon begins the sentence by saying “Simon says ... ” then everyone must do the action. If Simon does not begin with “Simon says ... ” then the players should not do the action.

After giving several instructions, point to a kid and say, “This is Simon. Listen to him!” That kid will then call out instructions. At any time, he may point to another player and say, “This is Simon. Listen to [him/her].” Play several rounds as time allows.

SAY • In the Bible story we will hear today, a voice said about Jesus, “This is my Son, the Chosen One; listen to him!” Listen carefully to the story to find out who said those words.

OPTION 2: A change in appearance

Guide kids to form pairs. Tell partners to stand back to back. Instruct each partner to change something about his appearance (change in hairstyle, accessories added or removed, pant cuffs rolled up or down, button undone, or so forth). Consider providing dress-up clothes or accessories for kids to use.

After a minute, tell partners to face each other. Challenge the partners to identify what changed about the other partner’s appearance. Play additional rounds with different partners as time allows.

SAY • Some of those changes were hard to recognize! Today we will hear about a time three disciples saw Jesus’ appearance change in a big way.

• dress-up clothes and accessories (optional)

Option: If your group is small, choose a volunteer to change her appearance while the rest of the group puts their heads down. Kids should raise their hand when they notice the change.

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
- Bible
- flashlight or camping lantern

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

[Leader enters wearing business casual attire and a headset. He or she also carries a flashlight or camping lantern and a Bible.]

LEADER • Hello, everyone! Welcome back to The Big Picture Travel Agency. I'm just preparing some vacation options for a new client. She called me last week and said, "[*Your name*], I really want to go on an adventure—maybe with hiking and caves and amazing panoramic views." I think I have the perfect destination in mind. I've been there plenty of times. *[Hold up a flashlight or lantern.]* Picture this: tall mountains, dark tunnels, camping under the stars, and a gorgeous view of the valley below. I think she'll love it.

[Set down the flashlight and hold up a Bible.] This getaway actually reminds me of one more Bible story I want to share with you. In this story, Jesus and three of His disciples went up on a mountain. They

didn't go for the views though. Are you ready to hear more?

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • If you remember our big picture question and answer, shout out the answer after I ask the question:

Why did Jesus perform miracles? *[Allow kids to respond.]* ***Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.*** Great! When you listen to today's Bible story, think about how Jesus was glorifying God, showing He is the Son of God, or caring for people.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

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

LEADER • We've already heard about a few of the miracles Jesus performed. When a storm threatened to overtake the boat Jesus and the disciples were in, **Jesus calmed a storm to show the disciples He is God.**

Another time, Jesus was teaching on a crowd when the disciples realized the people needed to eat. But they did not have enough food for everyone. What did Jesus do? **Jesus miraculously fed a crowd with five loaves and two fish.** After sending away the crowd and telling His disciples to go back across the sea, Jesus went to a mountain to pray. He met the disciples again on the sea. **Jesus showed He is God by walking on water.**

Today's Bible story is 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 • What an incredible experience for three of Jesus’ disciples! Which of the disciples went up on the mountain with Him? (*Peter, James, and John*) These men were Jesus’ closest friends. They went up on the mountain to pray. As Jesus prayed, His appearance changed.

How was Jesus changed? Look at Matthew 17:2. [*Allow kids to read the verse and respond.*] Jesus’ face shone like the sun and His clothes were as white as light. [*Choose a volunteer to find and read aloud Psalm 104:1-2.*]

Who else appeared on the mountain? Look at Matthew 17:3. [*Allow kids to read the verse and respond.*] Moses and the prophet Elijah also appeared in glory. Luke 9 tells us that they talked to Jesus about Jesus’ departure—that is, His death and resurrection.

Jesus’ disciples saw Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. They were terrified! A cloud covered them and a voice said, “This is My beloved Son ... Listen to Him!”

Do those words sound familiar? Can you think of another time God the Father spoke those words? (*at Jesus’ baptism*) Then the disciples didn’t see Moses or Elijah anymore; they only saw Jesus.

Christ connection

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

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided on page 213 to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

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.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

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

• “Unit 24, Session 4” questions from kids video



Missions moment (3 minutes)

Display the Myanmar photos. Read or ask a volunteer to read the “They Need Jesus” story.

• “They Need Jesus” printable

LEADER • Missionaries want people all over the world to understand the good news of Jesus and to see His glory. Missionaries in Myanmar want the people there to experience the hope and glory of Jesus. The gospel is good news for all people.

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

Emphasize that one day, Jesus will come back to earth in His glory to make all things new. People from every tongue, tribe, and nation will worship Him as King!

Key passage (5 minutes)

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

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

LEADER • Do you remember who wrote Psalm 40? (*King David*) These words that David wrote are still true today. God has done so many wondrous things—even things we aren’t aware of!

He has good plans for us. No one can compare with Him. Let’s sing our key passage song together.

Lead boys and girls in singing “None Can Compare with You (Psalm 40:5).”

Sing (4 minutes)

- “Miracle Maker” song
- Bible

Open your Bible and read aloud Psalm 67:1-2.

LEADER • These words from Psalm 67 are like a prayer. We want God to have mercy on us and bless us. We can ask Him to show His kindness to us—not so we can live an easy life but so that everyone in the world can learn about Him and know that He alone—the true Miracle Maker—saves people from sin. Let’s sing. Sing together “Miracle Maker.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Lord God, You are worthy of all glory and honor. We look forward to the day when we will enjoy Your presence forever. Be gracious to us, Father, and show kindness to us. We pray that all the people of the earth would know You and trust in You so that they would one day see Your glory too. 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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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.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- Allergy Alert
- balloons
- permanent marker
- double-sided tape

Before the session, inflate several balloons and write the key passage as words or phrases on the balloons. Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading Psalm 40:5 aloud together.

Scatter the balloons on the floor. Provide double-sided tape and challenge kids to arrange the balloons in order, taping them to a table or focal wall.

SAY • Great work! Jesus performed many miracles while He was on earth. ***Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to glorify God, to show He is the Son of God, and to care for people.*** Peter, James, and John saw Jesus' glory. One day, Jesus will come back to earth in His glory to make all things new.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

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

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Matthew 17. Explain that today's Bible story is found in three of the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Challenge kids to name as many of the New Testament books (in order) as they can.

SAY • Jesus and three of His disciples went up a mountain

to pray. The Bible doesn't tell us which mountain, but it was probably Mount Hermon, northeast of the Sea of Galilee. [*Point to the mountainous region (B7) between Capernaum and Damascus on the New Testament Israel Map.*] On the mountain, Jesus was changed—or transfigured. **Jesus showed His glory to Peter, James, and John.**

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Matthew 17:5. Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What do you think the disciples realized about Jesus after they saw Him changed? *Lead kids to conclude that this event further confirmed that Jesus is God's Son. Remind them of God's words at Jesus' baptism (Mark 1:11) Point out that even though Jesus said He would rise from the dead, the disciples did not understand what He meant. (Mark 9:10)*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 104:1-2.)
2. How is Jesus greater than Moses and Elijah? *Help kids recall that Moses had seen a glimpse of God's glory. Afterward, Moses reflected God's glory in his face. (See Ex. 34.) Elijah told people about God's glory. (1 Kings 18) Jesus, however, showed God's glory directly and brings us into God's presence.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 3:3-6.)
3. Why should we listen to Jesus? *Remind kids that at Jesus' transfiguration, a voice said, "This is My beloved Son ... Listen to Him!" Jesus is God in the flesh. We listen to Jesus by submitting to Him as the King of our lives, listening to what He tells us through His Word, and obeying Him.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 14:23.)

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

LOW PREP

- "Prayer Reminders" printable
- crayons

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

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Prayer reminders

Before the session, make copies of the prayer reminder sheet and cut apart the cards. Invite each kid to choose a card to decorate. Ask a volunteer to read the statement on his card.

SAY • Just like the people of Myanmar need Jesus, people right in our neighborhood need Jesus too. We can share the good news about Jesus with people at school, at the ball field, or at restaurants. Let's make simple prayer reminders to give to people at church. We will also remind people to share Jesus wherever they go.

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 on*).

OPTION 2: Window tracing

Tape copies of the tracing picture onto a large window. Provide tracing paper and guide kids to trace the pictures. Point out how the light coming through the window helps the picture show up through the paper.

As kids work, review the Bible story. Ask them to identify the people in the picture. (*Peter, James, John, Moses, Jesus, Elijah*) 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.

If time allows, invite kids to use colored pencils to fill in their pictures.

SAY • **Jesus showed His glory to Peter, James, and John.**
Jesus said He would die, rise from the dead, and

- "Tracing Picture" printable
- tracing paper
- pencils or markers
- tape
- colored pencils (optional)

Tip: Copy paper may work if tracing paper is not available.

return to heaven. One day, Jesus will come back to earth in His glory to make all things new. We look forward to that day. 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.

Challenge kids to share today's Bible story with a friend or family member this week.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

• pencils
• Journal Page
• "Changed!" activity page, 1 per kid

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, praising God for showing His glory through His Son. Pray that kids would eagerly share the good news about Jesus with others, looking forward to the day when Jesus will return in glory.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Changed!" on the activity page. Kids should use the code to fill in the blanks.

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