

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 show He is the Son of God.

**INTRODUCE THE STORY**  
(15–20 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 158**



**TEACH THE STORY**  
(10–15 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 160**



**EXPERIENCE THE STORY**  
(20–25 MINUTES)  
**PAGE 162**



Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com).

For free training and session-by-session help, visit [MinistryGrid.com/gospelproject](http://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 went up on a high mountain with Peter, James, and John. The disciples fell asleep, and Jesus prayed. All of a sudden, Jesus changed. His face was shining like the sun, and His clothes were bright white. 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.”

Peter was still talking when a bright cloud covered them. A voice from the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him!” The disciples fell facedown. They were so scared!

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

As the friends were coming down the mountain, Jesus said, “Do not 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 Jewish teachers say that Elijah must come before the Messiah comes?”

Jesus told them that Elijah had already come—that is, a prophet like Elijah had come. Jesus was talking about John the Baptist. The people did not think John was a prophet, and they hurt him. Jesus said that they would hurt Him too.

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

## **Bible Storytelling Tips**

### **• Shine a light:**

Dim the lights and tape the Bible story picture poster to a focal wall. As you tell the Bible story, shine a flashlight on the picture. Make your voice sound deeper when you read the voice from the cloud.

### **• Use the timeline:**

When you mention Moses and Elijah in the Bible story, point to Bible story pictures on the giant timeline or small group timeline that feature Moses and Elijah. Moses can be found in Volume 2: "Out of Egypt" and Elijah can be found in Volume 5: "A Nation Divided."

# INTRODUCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** 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:** Psalm 40:5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to show He is the Son of God.

## Welcome time

- "Nobody Like Him" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

## Activity page

- "Which Is Different?" activity page, 1 per child
- crayons or markers

Invite children to circle the item in each row that is different from the others.

**SAY** • Good job deciding which one in each row is different. In today's Bible story, Jesus did something amazing that showed His disciples that He is different from anyone else on earth. Listen to the story.

## LOW PREP

- chairs

## Play "Wake up, Disciples"

Invite preschoolers to sit in chairs in a large circle. Leave space between the chairs. Explain that when you say, "Fall asleep, disciples," children should close their eyes, and pretend to sleep. When you say, "Wake up, disciples," children should open their eyes, jump up, and find a new seat. Say the phrases several times, alternating the phrases and varying the game speed.

**SAY** • In our Bible story today, Jesus went up on a high mountain with Peter, James, and John. The disciples fell asleep. When they awoke, they saw a most amazing sight! Listen to the story to hear what Peter, James, and John saw.

## Count clouds by three

Arrange cotton balls in a pile next to a muffin tin. Give a child a set of plastic tongs and show him how to hold the tongs to grasp and pick up a cotton ball. Invite him to pick up three cotton balls with the tongs one at a time and put them into one of the muffin tin cups. Encourage children to take turns with the tongs.

- cotton balls
- muffin tins
- plastic tongs

**SAY** • Our cotton balls look kind of like clouds. In today's Bible story, Jesus took three of His disciples up a high mountain. While they were there, the three disciples saw Jesus transform in an amazing way. Then they heard God the Father speaking to them about Jesus from a cloud. Listen to the story to hear what happened.

## Transition to teach the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, turn the lights off and on, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Lead preschoolers to pretend to put on a backpack, grab a walking stick, and to hike up a mountain as they move to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

# TEACH the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** 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:** Psalm 40:5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to show He is the Son of God.

## Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Mark 9 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

**SAY** • The Bible is God's words. All God's words are true.

Today we will hear a story about Jesus that comes from the Books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke in the New Testament part of the Bible.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

## Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Jesus Showed His Glory" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

**SAY** • **Jesus showed His glory to Peter, James, and John.**

The way Jesus looked changed right in front of them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes glowed bright white. Then the disciples heard a voice from a cloud that said, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased." Jesus said He would die, rise from the dead, and go back to heaven. One day, Jesus will come again in His glory to make everything new.



## Practice the key passage

Place the key passage marker at Psalm 40:5. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Say the key passage using the motions from previous sessions. Say the passage again stopping at different times, inviting children to say the word that comes next.

**SAY** • Our key passage reminds us that God has done many wondrous things. Nothing compares to Him. When Jesus showed His glory to His disciples, He showed that He is unlike anyone else. He is the Son of God. Sing the key passage song, “Lord My God,” and the theme song, “Nobody Like Him.”

- Bible
- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “Lord My God (Psalm 40:5)” song
- “Nobody Like Him” song

## Learn the big picture question

**SAY** • Jesus’ transformation on the mountain was a miracle, but Jesus would soon do an even greater miracle by dying on a cross, rising from the dead, and going back to heaven. ***Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to show He is the Son of God.*** Jesus is God’s Son sent to save us from sin.

- Big Picture Question Poster



## Missions moment

Display the photo or ask a volunteer to hold it up while you read the story aloud.

**SAY** • This story and picture reminds us that people all over the world need Jesus. We need Jesus here, and people all the way on the other side of the world need Him too. Jesus showed His glory to His friends in the Bible, and He shows His glory today! Let’s pray and thank God for loving all the people He made.

- “They Need Jesus” printable

## Pray and transition to experience the story



# EXPERIENCE the Story



**SESSION TITLE:** 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:** Psalm 40:5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to show He is the Son of God.

## LOW PREP

- beanbag or paper wad
- Bible Story Picture Posters from unit 24

### Toss a beanbag and review

Place the four Bible story picture posters from unit 24 in a row on the floor against a wall. Invite children to line up several feet from the pictures. Give the first child the beanbag or paper wad and direct him to toss the beanbag onto one of the pictures. When the beanbag lands on or near a picture, invite the child to tell the group one thing he remembers from that Bible story. Help as needed. Allow each child to take a turn and play as long as time allows.

**SAY** • We have learned about some of the miracles that Jesus performed while He was on earth. In our Bible stories, we learned that Jesus calmed a storm, fed a crowd, walked on water, and showed His glory to His disciples. ***Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to show He is the Son of God.***

### Play out the Bible story

- play tent or sheet
- Bible times dress-up clothes
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Set up a play tent or place a sheet over a small table to create a tent. If space and resources allow, set up three tents. Set out Bible times dress-up clothes. Guide children to dress up and pretend to be Jesus' disciples. Lead children to play out falling asleep and reacting to seeing Jesus in His glory. Encourage children to sit in the tent with the Bible story picture and Bibles.

**SAY • Jesus showed His glory to Peter, James, and John** on the mountain. When the disciples awoke, they saw Jesus talking with Moses and Elijah. Peter said, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If You want, I will set up three tents here.” Peter was still talking when a cloud covered them and they heard God’s voice say, “This is My beloved Son.” As God’s Son, Jesus said He would die, rise from the dead, and go back to heaven. One day, Jesus will come again in His glory to make everything new.

## Make shaving cream clouds

Place a small mound of shaving cream on a clean table in front of each seated child. Encourage children to use their hands and fingers to play with their “cloud” on the table and to draw pictures or letters in their cloud. Suggest older preschoolers write a *J* for *Jesus*, *G* for *God*, or the number 3. Demonstrate how to draw a heart or a mountain in their cloud. Caution children not to touch their face or eyes with shaving cream on their hands.

- Allergy Alert
- non-menthol shaving cream
- craft sticks (optional)
- wipes

**SAY •** Was it fun playing with your pretend cloud? When **Jesus showed His glory to Peter, James, and John** on the mountain, a bright cloud covered Jesus and His disciples. A voice from the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.” Jesus is unlike anyone else on earth. He is God’s perfect Son. Jesus said He would die, rise from the dead, and go back to heaven. One day, Jesus will come again in His glory to make everything new.

## Experiment with flashlights

Place flashlights and compact discs on a table. Encourage

- several working flashlights
- compact discs

preschoolers to experiment with the flashlights. They may shine their flashlights against a compact disc to see a colorful rainbow. Demonstrate how to make shadow puppets on the wall. Consider dimming the lights for preschoolers to shine their flashlights in the dark. Remind children not to shine the light in someone's eyes.

**SAY** • When **Jesus showed His glory to Peter, James, and John**, the way He looked miraculously changed. He shone brighter than the most powerful flashlight in the world could shine! His face was shining like the sun, and His clothes were bright white. Jesus told Peter, James, and John that He would die, rise from the dead, and go back to heaven. One day, Jesus will come again in His glory to make everything new.



## Build a pagoda

- "Pagoda" printable
- small blocks
- play dough

Show preschoolers the picture of the pagoda. Explain that pagodas are very common in parts of Asia, like the country of Myanmar. Draw attention to the points on top. Invite preschoolers to build a pagoda from small blocks and play dough. Encourage them to use the play dough to make a pointed spire.

**SAY** • Would you like to visit a pagoda one day? If we traveled to Myanmar, we would see pagodas in real life! Missionaries travel to different countries to tell people the good news about Jesus. Maybe one day you will travel to another country to tell the people there about Jesus. For now, you can pray for missionaries in other countries and tell people about Jesus right now. Let's pray and ask God to help missionaries and us tell people that Jesus is going to come again in His glory to make everything new.

## Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve three mini muffins to each child for snack. Talk about how **Jesus showed His glory to Peter, James, and John**. The disciples wanted to set up three tents for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. As Jesus and the three disciples came down the mountain, Jesus asked them not to tell anyone what they had seen until He was raised from the dead.

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Whom did Jesus take with Him up the mountain? (*Peter, James, and John*)
2. How did the way Jesus looked change? (*His face was shining like the sun, and His clothes were bright white.*)
3. When the disciples awoke, whom did they see talking with Jesus? (*Moses and Elijah*)
4. What did the voice from the cloud call Jesus? (*"My beloved Son"*)
5. ***Why did Jesus perform miracles? Jesus performed miracles to show He is the Son of God.***

## Transition

When preschoolers finish their snack, they may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- mini muffins (optional)

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "Lord My God (Psalm 40:5)" song
- "Nobody Like Him" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers