



Posted on February 18, 2017
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An rfour.org Children's Time Message

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Written for Sunday, February 26, 2017

8th Sunday after Epiphany

Lectionary Year A

Scripture: [Matthew 17:1-9](#) [Summary: *The Transfiguration: Jesus Shines*]

Supplies Needed: Two candles (that are easy to hold and light) as well as matches (or a lighter) to light the candle.

ASK (a.k.a. *The On-Ramp*)

- Good morning.
- [Hold up one candle]
- Can you tell me what this is? (a candle!)
- And what do candles do? (They burn/light up/are pretty/can smell good)
- So...is this candle doing any of that that right now? (Not lighting anything up, but it might already smell)
- Why isn't it lighting things up? (Because it has no flame; it needs to be lit)
- How do I do that? [*Inspect the candle*] Is there a switch that I flip or something? (No, you have to LIGHT it with something else)
- Like matches or a lighter? (Yes!)
- [*Light the candle*]
- Like this? (Yes!)

TELL (a.k.a. *The Freeway*)

- In today's scripture story, Jesus goes up a mountain with his disciples to pray.
- And then, while he's praying, Jesus lights up. Did you hear that part?

- There's this part in the story where it says that Jesus' face "shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white."
- We even have a special name for this story. We call it the Transfiguration story.
- "Transfiguration" is a fancy word that means "to be changed."
- And in a lot of ways, Jesus in today's story and this candle here are a lot alike.
- On its own, this candle cannot shine.
- But, with a little help from a match/lighter, then the candle is changed, or "transfigured," and is able to do what it's supposed to do: To shine light.
- The same is true for Jesus.
- On his own, by himself, Jesus cannot shine God's light.
- But because he keeps inviting God's light and love into his life by praying, then Jesus shines very brightly with God's light and love.

SHARE the Good News (a.k.a. *The Destination*)

- Not only does Jesus shine with God's light and love, but he also *shares* God's light and love with the people who are around him.
- So, just like this candle can now light other candles [*take second candle and use the first candle to light it*], Jesus can help other people, like his disciples, learn how shine with God's light and love.
- And then *they* can go out and help even more people shine with God's light and love.
- The same is true for us.
- As we learn from Jesus and his disciples how to ask for and invite God's light and love into our lives, then we, too, can share God's light and love with the people around us.
- And that is the Good News for today.
- Let's Pray. This is a repeat-after-me prayer.

CLOSING Prayer

Dear God...

Dear God...

Thank you for Jesus...

Thank you for Jesus...

...who receives your light and love...

...who receives your light and love...

...who shines your light and love...

...who shines your light and love...

...and who shares your light and love with us...

...and who shares your light and love with us...

...so that we can shine with your light and love, too.

...so that we can shine with your light and love, too.

Thank you and Amen.