



A Workshop Rotation Model Lesson Plan from [rfour.org](http://rfour.org)

## The Transfiguration | Mark 9:1-8; 14-29

Season 1.Session 7: Science, Movement & Games, Storytelling, Arts & Crafts

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### OVERVIEW SECTION

#### How to Read This Lesson Plan

The **Overview Section** is the foundation of this lesson plan. The questions and activities for the class that you will be teaching on Sunday morning have been based (sometimes loosely) upon what you read in this section. The **Overview Section** is composed of five components (each component is underlined in the lesson plan):

**How to Read This Lesson Plan** (defines all components of the lesson plan)

**Purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation** (a reminder of why we do this)

**Scripture(s) for the Session** (a reminder that the scripture is to be read in every class)

**Key Verses & Theology** (background for teachers to ponder)

**Themes to Focus on from the Scripture** (the ideas that the session's lessons are based on)

The actual lesson is found in the second section, **The Sunday Morning Experience Section**. Think of this section as the step-by-step instruction guide to your Sunday morning teaching experience. There are four components to this section (again, each component is underlined in the actual lesson plan):

**Preparation** (including supplies needed)

**Classroom Statement** (a brief explanation of what will be taught/happening in the classroom)

**Step-by-step process of the lesson** (including the scripture to be read)

**Suggested variations for age groups** (Self-explanatory but not always applicable)

We encourage you to read the rest of this **Overview Section** before reading the **Sunday Morning Experience Section**.

#### Purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation

The purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation is, with God's help and in community, to hear and interact with the stories of our faith tradition, to pray, worship and play together, and to equip and support the building of relationships with God and with each other.

**Scripture(s) for the Session:** Mark 9:1-8; 14-29 (from The Message)

*Please READ this aloud in every class you teach.* The actual words to the scripture can be found in **The Sunday Morning Experience Section: Step-by-Step process of the lesson**. When

reading to the class, please read it from the lesson plan (not an actual Bible) as the wording of the scripture has been modified to help clarify some language issues.

**Key Verses & Theology:** These are provided to help the teachers think about and build a framework for understanding the story to help in answering some of the questions that the students might raise in class.

*"I'm not just talking about the distant future. Some of you who are standing here are going to see the kingdom of God arrive in full force." 2 Six days later, three of them did see it.* The kingdom of God exists where God is allowed to be king. The Kingdom of God is not just heaven. It is not just a place that we go to when we die. It is much more than that, and starts in the here and now. Jesus is trying to get his disciples to understand this by letting them know they'll be seeing it soon, while they are still alive.

*Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain to pray. Once they were up there and praying, Jesus' appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes.* Prayer is how we let God be king in our life. In prayer, we are both offering to God and receiving from God. We are offering praise and admitting need. And we are receiving comfort and direction. In this give and take with God in prayer, we are changed. Jesus' change in appearance symbolizes this change we experience in prayer. Also, when we are listening and speaking with God, we see things we wouldn't normally see on our own. The arrival of Moses and Elijah symbolize this "insight" that comes in prayer. All in all, the arrival of the Kingdom of God is an arrival filled with transformation.

*But then Peter interrupted* Such transformation that comes in prayer can be unsettling and sudden and uncomfortable. We will feel a desire to push away. We might do this in many ways. A common way is to interrupt our praying by thinking of our own plans and desires. This is what Peter does. Here, God is transforming Jesus and offering insight in the form of Elijah and Moses. But how does Peter respond? By interrupting with his own plans. In that moment, Peter stops God from being king. Peter offers his own commands instead...and it stops everything.

*"This is my Son, marked by my love. Listen to him."* But not all is lost when Peter interrupts (or when we interrupt). Jesus and others who are listening to God are still available to help us and talk with us. Also, we are all marked by God's love. God does not remove that mark from us. We might ignore God's claim of love upon us, but God does not remove it from us. So once we realize that our interrupting is getting in the way, we can turn back to God's love, we can re-engage in prayer and go back to letting God be king in our life.

**Themes to Focus on from the Scripture:** Themes are provided to help teachers understand the teaching of the *session* (not necessarily the class). Sometimes an activity in one class may not match up with any of the themes.

**Kingdom of God** – The Kingdom of God is wherever we choose to let God be king. Be that in our minds, in our chores, in our relationships, in our work, in our finances, in our lives – wherever we invite and choose to let God be king, that is where the Kingdom of God is. To let God be king requires a few things from us. 1. That we seek to be aware of what God wants to have happen in

God's kingdom. 2. That once we are aware of what God wants to have happen, then we do it. 3. That we keep checking in, seeking to be aware of what God wants to have happen.

**Prayer** – There are two types of prayer: Conversational and meditative. In conversational prayer, the conversation with God that takes place mostly within our head/brain. Prayer is how we become aware of what God wants to have happen in God's kingdom. Prayer involves our words and our listening. This conversation, if we continue it, if we keep doing it, will shape and form us. Then, because our thoughts and actions are shaped by prayer, our doing becomes an extension of our prayer life. How we think, how we see, how we respond to others will be shaped and formed in our conversing with God. We bring the Kingdom of God to the here and now by having a conversation with God.

**Light** – Light illuminates. In order that we may see, light is required. In this story of transfiguration, God is the source of this light. Jesus in prayer lights up. A cloud that God speaks from is filled with light. Light, however, in and of itself, cannot be seen. Only by the things that stand in the light, can light be seen. Nighttime is a perfect example of this. The moon reflects the light of the sun that is behind us. But we can't see the light as it flies past the earth. We don't see it until it hits the moon. If we *could* see the light from the sun, the night sky would be brilliant white instead of deep black. The implications of this is that if we choose to stand in the light of God, we will shine and reflect God's light to others, just as Jesus does for the disciples.



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### THE SUNDAY MORNING EXPERIENCE SECTION

#### **Preparation**

- Print out this lesson plan and bring it with you on the Sunday Mornings you are teaching
- Arrive at pre-arranged time to join other teachers, shepherds and staff for an opening prayer.
- Supplies Needed: Paint brushes, jars (I bought 8 oz glass canning jars in bulk on-line – if you do the same, make sure to get smooth-sided jars), tissue paper, candles (tea lights), bowls to put the glue in.

#### **Classroom Statement**

This Arts & Crafts class consists of reading the Transfiguration story and then creating candle holders with tissue paper as a way to show how God's light shines through all of us in unique and exciting ways.

#### **Step-by-Step Process of Lesson**

Shepherd comes in with students

**SHEPHERD ASKS** "Question of the Day."

#### **INTRODUCE yourself**

Hi, my name is \_\_\_\_ and I want you call me (tell the students how they may address you).

#### **PRAY** (Short and simple is perfect)

God, thank you for this day and for each other. We need your help. Help us to learn about you this day. Amen.

#### **TELL**

- We're going to read a story today where Jesus takes a few of his disciples to a mountain top to pray.
- While they are praying, Jesus is transformed.
- This story is usually called the "Transfiguration Story" and the word transfiguration means to change in appearance.

**READ** Mark 9:1-8; 14-29 (from The Message)

1 Then Jesus drove his point home by saying, "I'm not just talking about the distant future. Some of you who are standing here are going to see the kingdom of God arrive in full force." 2 Six days later, three of them did see it.

Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain to pray. Once they were up there and praying, Jesus' appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. 3 His clothes shimmered, glistening white, whiter than any bleach could make them. 4 Elijah, along with Moses, came into view, and were in deep conversation with Jesus. 5 But then Peter interrupted, "Rabbi, this is a great moment! Let's make it last forever. We can build three memorials - one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah." 6 Peter blurted this out without thinking, stunned as they all were by what they were seeing. 7 Immediately, a cloud filled with light enveloped them, and from deep in the cloud came a voice: "This is my Son, marked by my love. Listen to him." 8 The next minute the disciples were looking around, rubbing their eyes, seeing nothing but Jesus, only Jesus.

### ASK

- What were Jesus and the disciples doing when Jesus was transfigured? (praying)
- What is it about Jesus' appearance that is changed? (his clothes shimmer and become very bright)
- After Peter interrupts, what happens next? (a cloud filled with light moves over them)
- Who is it that you think is talking from the light-filled cloud?
- Who is it that you think changes Jesus' clothing?

### TELL

- The light in this story comes from God.
- When Jesus is praying, he's stepping into the light of God.
- It makes him shine.
- Every time we pray, we're stepping into the light of God too.
- And each of us shine in God's light in a unique and exciting way.
- As a reminder of God's light, we're going to make a candle holder today that will change the light from the candle in a unique and exciting way.

### EXPLAIN/TELL

- Everyone must have one glass jar.
- [Make sure everyone has a glass jar]
- On this glass jar, we're going to glue tissue paper on to it.
- So the next thing I need you to do is take two, three or four squares of different colored tissue paper that you think are colors that look good together.
- Once you have the tissue paper, rip the tissue paper into small pieces about the size of your fingertip.
- Once you have the tissue paper ripped, we're now going to paint glue onto a small part of our glass jar with paint brushes.
- The glue is in the bowls on the table.
- Once you have a small spot of glue on your glass jar, then stick a piece of ripped tissue paper on it.
- Then paint glue over that piece of tissue paper.

- Before you start painting glue on your jar, I want you to think about what colors you want next to each other.
- Also, you'll want to make sure that the pieces of tissue paper overlap each other.
- If you're looking for a challenge, make a dove or a cross with one or two colors and then use another one or two colors for background.
- Once you are all done, raise your hand, and I will bring over to you a candle to put in your jar for you to take home.

**DO** activity

**CLEAN UP**

**DISMISS**

### **Suggested Variations for age groups**

With the younger children, having some pre-torn tissue paper may not be a bad idea. Overall, though, this activity is accessible for all Workshop Rotation Model ages.