

To Be Transfigured



GOSPEL THEME

The Son of God brings change and turns death into life.



The story of the Transfiguration is always told during the second Sunday of Lent. Sometimes the story is read from Matthew or Luke instead of from Mark, where today's gospel is found, but always the story sounds the same — beautiful but mysterious, uniquely different from other gospel stories but with a familiar ring. What does this often-told tale mean for us today? What did it mean for Peter and James and John?

The apostles saw Jesus “transfigured,” meaning he looked *different*. But he also looked the *same* — they *knew* him. They also saw Moses and Elijah, and knew them, even though they had never seen either of these men before. They had, after all, been dead for hundreds of years! And when they were alive, they were not alive at the same time! The three of them —

Jesus and Moses and Elijah — were *talking* as if they regularly met at the top of the mountain to talk. And Peter wanted to stay, to pitch tents and maybe start a campfire.

Have you ever been in a “graced” situation — with a person or a handful of people who felt so close that everything even seemed to *look* different ... bright, shining? And in your heart you wanted to stay there forever, to never go back to the “real” world? Maybe when you made your first holy Communion. Or maybe when your little brother or sister was baptized. Or maybe even when you were alone in the woods or by a lake or an ocean, and you suddenly felt very peaceful and safe. Maybe that's how Peter and James and John felt on the mountaintop that day.

One thing is certain: They heard the voice of God. It was the same voice of God that people had heard when Jesus was baptized,

and it was the same message too: “This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.” And then Jesus told them not to tell anyone about their experience until *after he had risen from the dead!*

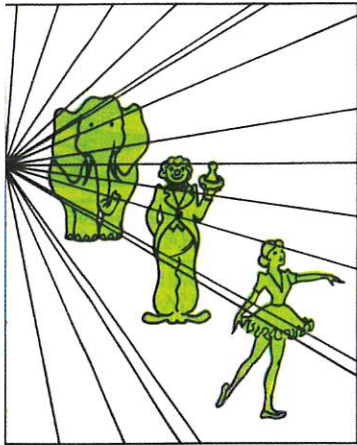
They listened — and they obeyed, even though they didn't understand. They went back down the mountain, back to the “real” world of work and worry, of temptation and rejection. But they had only to close their eyes and bring back the vision of the mountaintop — to feel the closeness they had shared.

And so do we. The message of the Transfiguration story — for us today and for Peter and James and John two thousand years ago — is that the Son of God brings change and turns death into life. And sometimes we are “graced” with “peeks” of heaven — glimpses of the Kingdom of God.

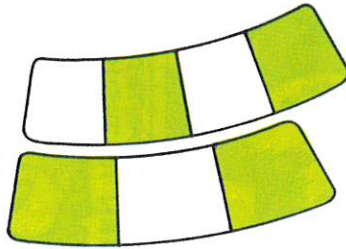


DO YOUR EYES DECEIVE YOU?

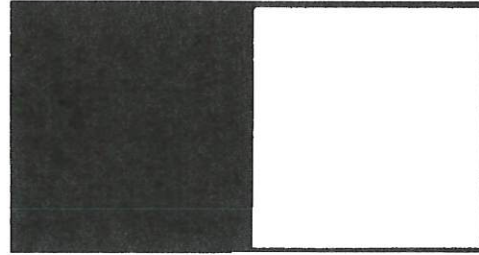
When the disciples saw Jesus talking to Moses and Elijah, surely they could hardly believe their eyes! But when they heard the voice of God, they knew they'd seen a miracle and not an optical illusion. Just for fun, can you answer the following questions correctly — or do your eyes deceive you?



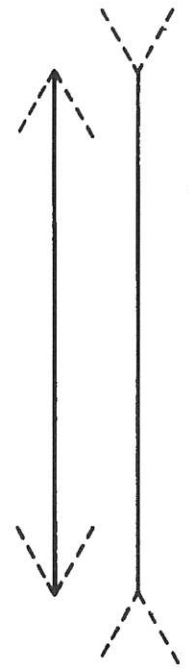
1. Which figure is the biggest?



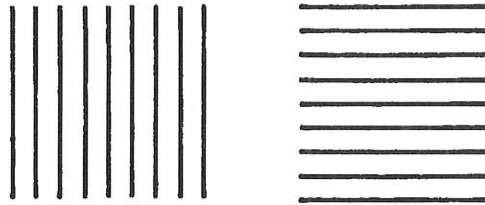
2. Which card is the larger?



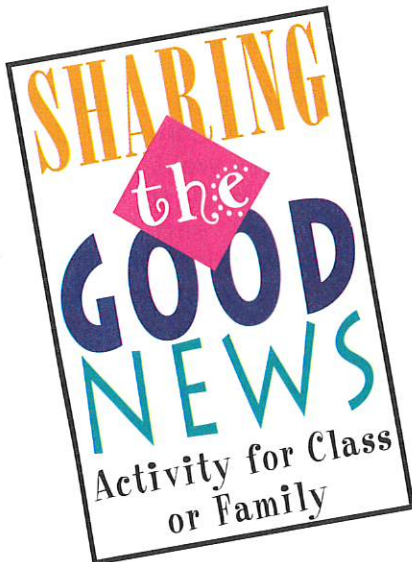
3. Which square is the larger?



5. Which is the longer line?



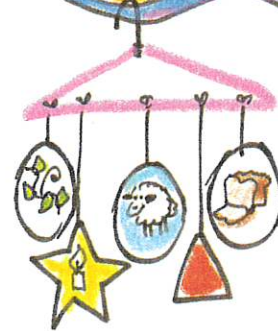
4. Are these two squares the same size?



CHRIST MOBILE

1 Using cardboard, poster board, or colored construction paper, each person cut out an "Easter ornament" in the shape of an Easter egg (or you could choose a different shape, like a circle or triangle, or even a heart or a star).

- 2** Check your Bible to find the different "symbols" Jesus used to describe himself. The illustration will give you some ideas.
- 3** Draw your symbols onto your Easter ornament, color them, and add the Bible verse where you found the symbol named. Do a different one on each side.
- 4** Punch a hole into the top of your ornament. Tie various lengths of thread to each ornament and hang them from a coat hanger. (To make your Christ Mobile more decorative, wrap the coat hanger with pastel colored yarn and secure it with glue before attaching the ornaments.)



A Meditation for the Second Week of Lent

Theme: Discovering Talents

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

What are the unique talents and gifts of each person gathered together? How can you encourage one another to develop these special talents and gifts?

