

Bright, Shining Faces



Theme: The glory of God is seen in the face of Jesus. Transfiguration Sunday - Yr. C

Object: The children's song: "Good Morning to You" ([Click Here](#))

Scripture: And as he was praying, the appearance of his face was transformed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Luke 9:29 (NLT) For God, who said, "Let there be light in the darkness," has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6 (NLT)

This morning I was thinking about a song from my childhood that we used to sing to start the day at school. The song was called, "Good Morning to You" and it goes like this: (Sing it if you can.)

Good morning to you,
Good morning to you.
We're all in our places
with bright, shining faces.
Good morning to you,
Good morning to you.

Isn't that a happy song? I'm not sure that our faces were always bright and shining, but I hope they were!

That song serves as a good reminder of what happened in our Bible lesson for today. The Bible tells us that one day Jesus took three of his disciples, Peter, James, and John and went up on a mountain to pray. As Jesus was praying, his face was changed and his clothes became a dazzling white. Suddenly, two men appeared and began talking to him. Do you know who the two men were? It was Moses and Elijah.

Peter and the others had fallen asleep and when they woke up, they saw Jesus and the other two talking. They were amazed at that wonderful sight! As Moses and Elijah were starting to leave, Peter said to Jesus. "Master, it is wonderful for us to be here! Let's build three shelters — one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

At the very moment Peter said that, a cloud appeared and cast a shadow over them and a voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my Son, listen to him." When the voice had spoken, Moses and Elijah were gone and the disciples were once again alone with Jesus on the mountain.

What an experience! Do you know what caused the face of Jesus to be changed and his clothes to become dazzling white? It was because they were in the presence of God! Did you know that God wants our faces to shine brightly just as the face of Jesus did on that very special day? The apostle Paul said in a letter he wrote to the church at Corinth, "For God, who said, 'Let there be light in the darkness,' has made this light shine in our hearts so we could know the glory of God that is seen in the face of Jesus Christ." (2 Corinthians 4:6)

You and I have many wonderful experiences in our daily walk with Jesus. Others should see that we have the love of Jesus in our heart by seeing his reflection our bright shining faces!

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the joy we experience in Jesus Christ. Help us reflect that joy in our bright, shining faces. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Citation: Inspiration for this lesson was provided by Fran Woodruff's excellent lesson on her website "On the chancel steps." For a different approach to this lesson take a look at her "Bright, Shiny Faces."

FLASHLIGHT FRENZY: Let the children scatter and hide under or behind obstacles. ONE child or leader with a flashlight will try to play TAG with the flashlight. When the flashlight shines on a hiding child, tell that child to jump up and SMILE with a bright shining face. Continue as time allows. Tell children to listen carefully to today's lesson about a bright shining face. Have answers to questions about today's story written on sheets of paper around the classroom. The children will shine the flashlight on the correct answer when the teacher has a question/answer time at the end of class.

RUN TO AND FRO: The teacher will have words written in very large letters around a designated area of the class room. All of these words will be from today's lesson such as transfiguration, shining, light, darkness, and hearts, etc. When the teacher calls out a word, the children will all run as quickly as possible to the word that the teacher called out. The last one to reach the word will be out of the game. Continue to play until only one child is left then tell the children to listen carefully for those words in today's Bible lesson. Encourage the children to raise their hands when they hear one of the game words in the lesson!

TENT TIME: If facility and supplies are available, have the children build a teepee type of tent. Have the children make up a simple skit of today's lesson pretending to camp on the Mountain where Jesus was transfigured. The ONE who is Jesus in the skit could just wear all white (robe and head piece, etc). They could set up three tents for the "shelters" in our story as they retell the story in a simple skit.

COTTON CLOUD: Provide the children with supplies to make a large cloud shape and add wisps of cotton on that cloud with glue. Write today's Bible verse on the cloud and hang it from the ceiling.

SUNSHINE PLATE: Give each child a paper plate and markers to color yellow and to glue yellow thin strips of paper all around the edge of the plate to represent the sun's rays. Encourage the children to draw happy faces on their sunshine plates and hole punch the top of the sunshine plate and add yarn or string so this sunshine craft can be hung on a wall to remind children of today's lesson.

CHALK TALK: Let the children take turns using colored chalk to draw parts of the story as the teacher tells the Bible lesson today. Each child can draw one part such as a mountain, one of the disciples, Moses, Elijah, or the cloud.

BRIGHT SHINING FACES: Provide construction paper, markers and many various smiling and happy faces for the children. Have the children write today's Bible verse in the middle of the paper and then decorate with happy face stickers all around the border of the paper.

SHINING BANNERS: Give the children long, wide strips of paper (from a roll of paper, for example) to color and decorate with special phrases from today's lesson and then worn over their shoulders for others to see. (Examples: GLORY TO GOD; JOY TO OTHERS, BRIGHT SHINING FACES; TRANSFIGURATION)