

# Second Sunday of Lent

## Jesus shines like the sun

### INTRODUCTION

Today we hear how Jesus allowed his closest friends to glimpse the power and brilliance of God's glory.

### SIGN OF THE CROSS

### LIGHT THE CANDLES

As children of the light we will never hide in the darkness.

### SORRY

Listen to the words of St Paul who tells us to (*cf St Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:23-32*):

'Make a fresh start and change your heart. Tell the truth and do not let your anger spoil your friendship with others and with God. Speak words of kindness and act with love and goodness towards each other. Above all, be ready to forgive others as God forgives you.'

Heavenly Father,  
during the season of Lent  
help us to turn back to you  
and to make a fresh start.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jesus said: 'Follow me and love each other, and you will be a sign for all to see that you are children of my love.'

### GOSPEL (*cf Matthew 17:1-10*)

One day Jesus asked Peter, James and John to come and pray with him. He led them to the top of a steep mountain, where it was peaceful and quiet, and they could be alone. Jesus began to pray to his heavenly Father when suddenly he appeared to change! His face and clothes shone with a brilliant light, as dazzling as the rays of the sun. Then the disciples saw Moses and Elijah on either side of Jesus, talking to him. Peter jumped up with excitement and said, 'Lord, this is wonderful! I could make three shelters – one for each of you!' At that moment a cloud streaming with light appeared above them, and a voice said, 'This is my Son, whom I love very much. Listen to what he says.' The disciples were so terrified that they threw themselves to the ground and hid their faces. Then Jesus said gently, 'Get up my friends, do not be afraid.' When they looked up, Jesus was standing alone.

### DISCUSSION

What did Peter, James and John see on the mountain top that day?

Jesus was 'transfigured'! This means his appearance changed as his face and clothes shone like the sun.

What happens if the sun shines in our eyes?

We are dazzled by its brightness and the strength of its light. The light shining from Jesus was as bright as the sun. These rays of light were shafts of God's glory, and a glimpse of his power and might.

If we lived in a world where there was no light, what would it be like? – It would be a cold and frightening place, full of darkness and gloom. (Encourage the children to share their thoughts and ideas. Have they ever had a power cut at home? What happened?)

Why is 'light' so important in our world? – By day the natural light of the sun warms the earth and makes things grow, and at night we use artificial light so that we can see, and find our way in the darkness.

On the mountain the disciples saw a change in Jesus as the brightness of God's glory shone out from him. Do you think the disciples were changed by what they had seen that day? – Just as light chases away the darkness so that we can see, the light shining out from Jesus that day made the disciples 'see' that he was indeed the Son of God. Their lives had been touched by the brilliance of God's power and love, and they were filled with the light of faith.

### ACTIVITY

Cut out several large candle shapes from card. You may be able to photocopy the illustration onto thin card. Using coloured squares of paper ask the children to glue these onto the candles to make mosaic patterns. The candles can then be hung from a mobile with the caption, 'Jesus fills our lives with light.'

### CREED

### CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, fill me with the light  
of your love and faith.  
Make me shine in the darkness,  
and touch the lives of others  
with the light of your goodness.