**Children’s liturgy - Second Sunday of Lent (Year A)**

**Preparing the worship space**

Colour:purple

**Song suggestions:** Share the Light, Bernadette Farrell (*Share the Light*, Bernadette Farrell)

**Welcome:** Today we hear about something very special that happened to Jesus while he was on a mountain with three of his friends. His appearance changed as his face and clothes shone like the sun. This also changed the lives of his friends as they realised that Jesus was the Son of God. We can change people’s lives through our actions, let’s think about how today.

**Opening prayer:** God of light and power, you sent your Son Jesus to show us how to live our lives. Help us to recognise him in all people that we meet and to take action so that the lives of all people may change for the better. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Genesis 12:1-4

**Psalm:** Ps 32:4-5, 18-20. 22 r. 22

**Gospel acclamation:** everyone stands and sings the acclamation together. For Lent we use an acclamation that doesn’t use the word ‘Alleluia’. We suggest ‘Change your lives and believe in him’ by Christopher Walker (OCP Publications).

**Gospel:** Matthew 17:1-9

Six days later Jesus took with him Peter and the brothers James and John and led them up a high mountain where they were alone. As they looked on, a change came over Jesus: his face was shining like the sun, and his clothes were dazzling white. Then the three disciples saw Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. So Peter spoke up and said to Jesus, “Lord, how good it is that we are here! If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

While he was talking, a shining cloud came over them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased—listen to him!”

When the disciples heard the voice, they were so terrified that they threw themselves face downwards on the ground. Jesus came to them and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don't be afraid!” So they looked up and saw no one there but Jesus.

As they came down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Don't tell anyone about this vision you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from death.”

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below\*)*

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember about this reading?

Jesus goes to the top of a mountain with Peter, James and John. When he gets there his appearance changes – his face and clothes shine with light. How do you think James and John feel when they see this?

A voice comes from a cloud, saying: ‘This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.’ Whose voice do you think this is? How do you think the disciples feel when they hear God’s voice?

The disciples are very afraid but Jesus tells them not to be and everything looks normal again.

But the disciples’ lives are changed by what happened on the mountain. They now know just how special Jesus really is – that he is God’s Son.

Our lives are changed by Jesus too as Jesus lives in all of us. Jesus showed us how we should live our lives. He asks us to always try to do what is right, to stand up for what we believe in and to help other people.

People all around the world are different but they were all made by God. Every person is unique and special. We try to see Jesus in all people and to treat them as we would like to be treated by others.

CAFOD works to help people who are poor and hungry around the world to change their lives for the better. You can make a change to your life this Lent and help to change the lives of other people.

What will you do this Lent to change your life and the lives of other people?

**Intercessions:** *You may prefer to ask the children to offer their own prayers*

Jesus’ appearance was changed on the mountain. As we try to change our lives and the lives of others, we pray together…

We pray for all world leaders: that they may follow Jesus’ example and make decisions that will change the lives of people who are poor for the better. Lord, hear us...

We pray for people who are poor around the world: that they may feel supported by others as they work to change the world for the better.

Lord, hear us…

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may see Jesus in people we meet and make changes so that the world is a better place for everyone. Lord, hear us…

**Closing prayer:** God of love, help us to be like your Son, and make a real difference to the lives of our global family. Amen.

**Activity suggestions:** Remind the children that Jesus’ face shone like the sun. On the activity sheet, ask them to draw or write in the sun the names of people whose love shines out. Then colour in the illustrations of people who change the world for the better with CAFOD and try to work out what these people do. On the back, ask the children to draw what they can do to change somebody’s life for the better.

Ask the children to share with their parents all that they have heard and done today. Ask them to do one thing during the week to help change the life of someone else for the better.

**For fundraising ideas and more activities that you could do with the children, visit cafod.org.uk/primary**

\*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today’s English Version, Second Edition)

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