

Wow!

Mark 9.2-9

This takes place high on a mountain, where three of Jesus' disciples see Jesus transformed and become 'dazzling white'. They see Moses and Elijah (two Old Testament prophets) talking with Jesus, and they are terrified. A cloud overshadows the disciples, and a voice says, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him.'

Now read Mark 9.2-9 see p.2 for text.

A note on the passage

There are lots of stories in the Bible where people encounter God on top of a mountain – Noah, Abraham, Moses, Elijah... Mountains were seen as closer to God, so much so that even the Temple in Jerusalem was built on top of a hill. As Peter, James and John climbed the mountain with Jesus, then, they may have had some sense of anticipation, but nothing could prepare them for what they were about to experience. These disciples have a vivid experience of the glory of God, so dazzling that they struggle to put it into words. Peter wants the experience to last for ever, but this turns out to be a passing experience and they go back down the mountain having heard God's voice. Have you experienced the glory of God in such an intense or unexpected way?



What experiences have been most transformative in your life?

Brush your teeth



Toothpaste brands often promise to 'dazzle', 'sparkle' or make our teeth 'brilliant white' – the sorts of words the disciples might have used to describe their 'wow' moment on the mountain. Each time you brush your teeth, ask yourself, 'What was my biggest 'wow' moment today?' Say thank you to God for that moment. At the end of the week, you might like to invite a group of friends or family to share their 'wow' moments. After each one, say together, 'Thank you, God.'

Sing

- Listen to the song 'Weird and Wonderful' by Fischy Music (youtu.be/0Fzn2dKPHFM). Each line gives an interesting fact, followed by the exclamation 'Wow! That's amazing!'
- Think of times that you have experienced God's glory, wonder or a 'wow' moment. Can you come up with new lyrics for the song that tell how amazing these times were? (E.g. 'When I was sad, God comforted me. Wow! That's amazing!')
- You could sing your new song as a prayer.



Did you send or receive a Valentine's card this week? How does it feel if you receive something like that if you weren't expecting it? Spend some time thinking about moments in your life that have been unexpected or life changing. Who else was involved? Think of someone who played an important part in your significant moment. Write a letter or make a card to send to them to say thank you. If you made a similar card for God, what would you say?

TRANSFORMATION

The passage from Mark recalls the story of the Transfiguration. This Sunday (14 February) is also Racial Justice Sunday, where the Church calls for transformation and an end to misunderstanding, racism and injustice. Find out more about this special Sunday at www.ctbi.org.uk. What small action could you take to be part of this transformation? Reflecting on the importance of racial justice; Thanksgiving for human diversity; Prayer for an end to misunderstanding, racism and injustice; Action that truly makes a difference; Fundraising for national and local racial justice initiatives.



Mountain Top

Find a local mountain, hill or path that you can climb. Or look at the image and use it to help you imagine a mountain-top experience. Why might people feel close to God in a place like this? Take some time to notice the beauty of God's world around you. What can you see that shows the glory of God?

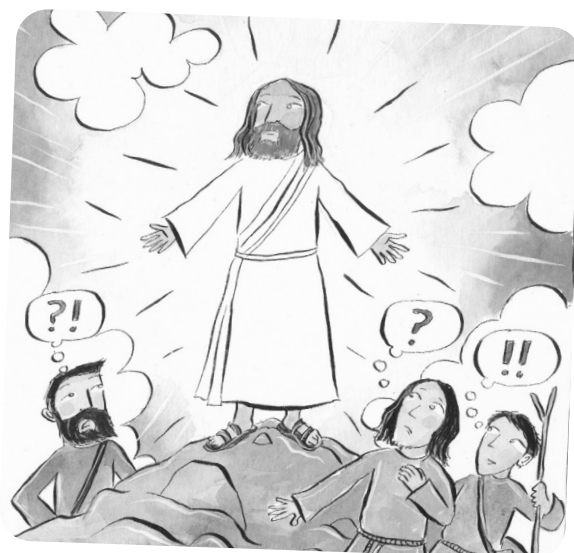
Choose a version of the passage to read. The first is the ROOTS version for children, the second is the NRSV text which may be suitable for older children, young people and adults.

Up the high mountain they went: Jesus, Peter, James and John. Up and up they climbed. The disciples were tired. And then, suddenly, before their very eyes, Jesus was transfigured! He was changed; radiant and brighter than the sun. His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than the whitest they had ever seen.

The disciples were amazed! And as they watched, two other figures appeared: the prophet Elijah, and Moses, the great leader of the Israelites. They were talking with Jesus. The disciples were terrified! They didn't know what to say. Suddenly, Peter spoke up: 'Let's build shelters! Let's build three shelters, right here! One for Moses, one for Elijah and one for Jesus.'

And as they stood, a cloud overshadowed them. And from the cloud a voice spoke to them: 'This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.' Suddenly, there was no one there any more, only Jesus. The disciples were confused. But they knew they had glimpsed something amazing. So they set off back down the mountain: Jesus, Peter, James and John.

Jesus said that they were to tell no one what they had seen. Not until after he had risen from the dead. The disciples were puzzled. But they kept the secret. **Mark 9.2-9**



Did you know?

- Explore what you think the word 'transfigured' might mean and how Jesus might have looked.
- The disciples knew that Moses had led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, and that Elijah had been a great prophet who told people about the things of God.

Mark 9.2-9 (NRSV)

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good

for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.