L.O: to read and explore the Gospel accounts of key events in the life of Jesus: The Transfiguration.

Week 6

Week Beginning Monday 8th February 2021



The Story of the Transfiguration of Jesus

Lesson 1.

Jesus asked Peter, James and John to follow him up onto a mountain to pray. Even though the disciples were very sleepy they followed him just as he asked. Suddenly, as they were walking, Jesus began to change right before their very eyes. Everything became bright. Jesus' face began to shine brighter than light. His clothes became dazzling white.

Then two other men appeared beside Jesus. One of the men was Moses and the other was Elijah. Peter, James and John could hardly believe their eyes. They did not know how this could be possible. Moses and Elijah had died a long, long time ago. Now the two men were standing here with Jesus. They were having a conversation with Jesus. They were talking about the way Jesus would fulfil God's purpose by dying in Jerusalem.

Soon Moses and Elijah started to leave but Peter tried to stop them. "Please wait, I would like to build three shelters so that you can stay with us".

While Peter was speaking to them a bright cloud came down and covered them all.

Then everyone heard a voice. This was not a voice like any they had ever heard. This was the voice of God. The Lord said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to Him!"

The disciples were so afraid at hearing the voice of God that they fell down on the ground. They fell flat on their faces. Jesus told them to get up. He told them not to be afraid.

When the disciples finally looked up they saw that everything was back to normal and Jesus was standing there alone. Now they knew that Jesus was even more special than they had thought before. He was the Son of God.

(Matthew 17:1-13 Mark 9:2-13 Luke 9:28-36)



What does “transfigured” mean?

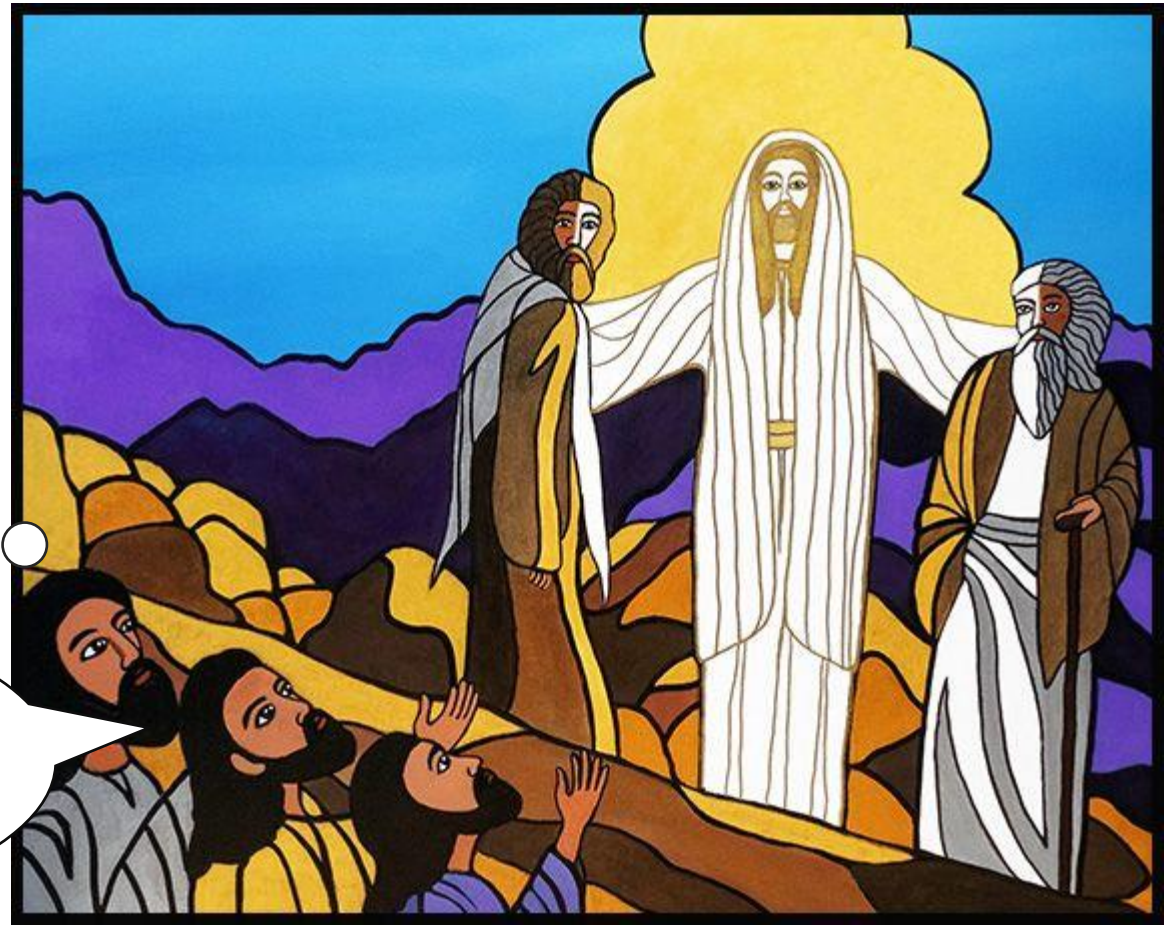
How is Jesus described in this story?

What do you think God might say about us?

Imagine that you were one of the disciples on the mountain with Jesus.

How did you feel when you witnessed this miraculous sight?

What questions might you have asked Jesus, Moses and Elijah if you had been there?



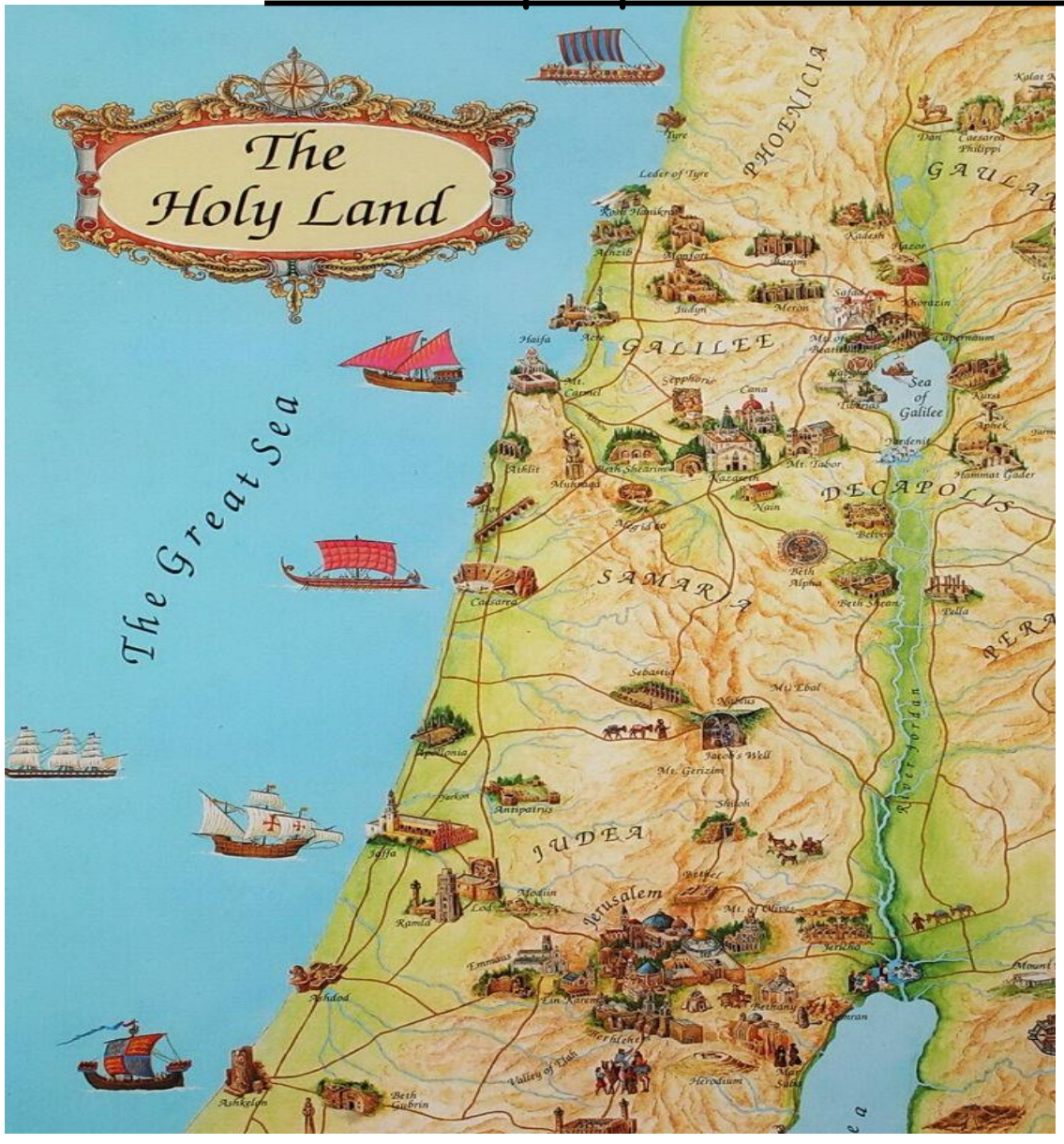
Please wait, I would like to build three shelters so that you can stay with us.

The Transfiguration of Jesus



Draw a picture of the Transfiguration and include thought and speech bubbles to show how the disciples felt.

L.O. : to know that God prepared the People of Israel for the coming of Jesus and that people's lives were changed by their response to Jesus.



Lesson 2.





The River Jordan

Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan.

Mount Tabor

Thought to be the place where the Transfiguration took place.

Background to the Baptism of Jesus and the Transfiguration

God prepared the people of Israel for the coming of Jesus

The Transfiguration story explains the purpose of John the Baptist. He prepared the way for Jesus to come. He did this by preaching and softening the hearts of the people. Mark 9:11-13 says that Elijah, meaning John the Baptist, has come already. So Moses represents the Old Covenant Law and the Promise of Christ. Elijah represents the Prophets, preparing the way for the Messiah. The Lord himself explained who Jesus was: "My Son".

Moses and Elijah were two of the greatest Jews and prophets that had ever lived. For Jesus to stand with them showed his importance. Then, the voice of the Lord came from a bright cloud and God put the words of Jesus above those of Moses and Elijah. Moses and Elijah lived under the Old Law. Jesus had new words to say. The Lord told the disciples to "Listen to Him."

The Time and Place

We know that Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan because the bible accounts tell us. Since Jesus had just been in the region of Caesarea Philippi, the tall mountain mentioned in the Transfiguration story, could have been Mount Tabor since it is nearby. As Jesus often went off by himself at night to pray and considering that the disciples were sleepy (Luke 9:32) this story could have happened at night.

Preparing the Disciples

It is interesting that Peter wanted to build shelters for Moses, Elijah and Jesus. Maybe he wanted to make a place like the tabernacle in the Old Testament. Or perhaps he wanted them to stay for a while (Luke records that he brought it up when Moses and Elijah were about to leave – Luke 9:31). Either way, a mere building could not hold the glory that they were witnessing. Peter never forgot this event. He wrote about it later in his life in (2 Peter 1:16-18).

TASK: Read the information about the two bible stories and answer the questions.

1. What did the voice of God say in the two stories? What do you think this tell us?
2. Where did the Baptism of Jesus take place an how do we know this?
3. Who baptised Jesus and why do you think this happened?
4. Where do bible scholars think the Transfiguration took place and why do they think this?
5. Who does Elijah represent in the Transfiguration story?
6. Why are Moses and Elijah present with Jesus?
7. Why do you think Saint Peter wanted to build three tents?
8. How do we know that Saint Peter did not forget the Transfiguration?