

Children and family talk for 14th February 2021

Good morning, and welcome to the children and family worship from Christ Church URC, Rayleigh.

Let's start our worship by singing;

Sing to the tune: My God is so big, so strong and so mighty

This story's so big, so good and amazing, it tells us that Jesus is king.

Transforming his face, his clothes and his body

so everyone knows he is king.

Yes, Jesus is good, his love is so good – his acts are amazing and new.

This story's so big, so good and amazing, it tells us that Jesus is king.

Our Bible reading today is from Mark 9 verses 2 to 9.

Before we begin, I am going to introduce the three main characters in our story. Here is Jesus (figure), Moses, and Elijah. As you know, Jesus is in the New testament, Moses was around a long time before this, in fact about 1500 years before, and Elijah, 875 years before Jesus. Moses was the guy that led the people out of Egypt, and Elijah was a very important prophet. All three were considered prophets, which means that they told people messages from God. So, can you imagine how people might have felt if Moses and Elijah had suddenly appeared with Jesus? Let's read our bible passage now to see what happened.

Jesus had been travelling around the villages talking to the crowds that followed him and teaching his friends about God. One day he took Peter, James and John and led them up a high mountain to be alone. As the men watched, Jesus' appearance changed, his clothes became dazzling white, far whiter than any earthly bleach could ever make them. Then Elijah and Moses appeared and began talking with Jesus. Peter exclaimed, "Rabbi, it's wonderful for us to be here! Let's make three shelters as memorial – one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He said this because he didn't really know what else to say, for they were all terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my dearly loved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, when they looked around, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus with them.

As they went back down the mountain, he told them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Let's praise God now as we sing:

My Jesus, My Saviour

My Jesus, my Saviour,
Lord there is none like you.
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of your mighty love.
My comfort, my shelter,
Tower of refuge and strength,
Let every breath, all that I am,
Never cease to worship you.

Shout to the Lord all the earth, let us sing,
Power and majesty, praise to the king.
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of your name.
I sing for joy at the work of your hands,
Forever I'll love you, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in you.

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Let's talk about our Bible verses:

So, a very weird thing happened. Jesus is with three of his closest friends, climbs up a mountain with them, and suddenly things change. All of sudden there are no longer four of them, but two more people have appeared from nowhere and what is more they are people who must have died hundreds of years earlier. And that's not the only thing. Jesus has changed. He is brighter than bright, dazzling bright in fact. So, what is going on? The three friends of Jesus are absolutely terrified, and Peter, is the first to speak. He starts talking about making a shelter for them. As so many of us do, he is talking nonsense because he doesn't understand what is happening and feels like he has to fill the silence left by the others. Then God speaks from a cloud, "This is my Son, listen to Him".

Previous to this Jesus had been talking to his disciples about the fact that he had to die. Peter had not understood this and didn't want Jesus talking in this way, but this was part of Jesus' mission and it had to happen. We are fortunate to know the end of this story, that Jesus comes back to life, but this was all news to Jesus' friends. By taking them up the mountain with them and showing them the glory of God with the shining clothes and the strange appearance of these very important figures from history, Moses and Elijah, Jesus was trying to help them to understand the truth that he was the Son of God.

Let's talk to God:

Lord God, there are lots of things we don't understand about you and your kingdom. Help us not to doubt in you. Thankyou Lord for always believing in us. Amen.

Let's all do the Grace together, follow me for the actions

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (Hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (Put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (Hold hands)

Be with us all now and for ever. Amen! (raise hands together on the Amen)

The children's sheet from Roots:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/21754/14th-february-2021-activity-sheet.pdf>