



LESSON 15

Jesus is gloriously transfigured

LUKE 9:27-36



Jesus is the King of Glory.



“But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God” (Luke 9:27).

Supporting Truths

1. Jesus is glorious.
2. Jesus is the King.
3. Jesus' death must come before His glorious kingdom.
4. Jesus is the Son and Chosen One.
5. Listen to Jesus.

Objectives

1. Describe how Jesus looked.
2. List several things that point to the kingdom of God.
3. Compare the conversation of Moses and Elijah with that of Jesus and Peter (Mark 8:31–33).
4. Explain how “Son” and “Chosen One” confirm both Jesus' glory and His death.
5. Identify the proper response to Jesus' glory.

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Lesson Summary

Previously, Jesus explained that He must die and that His followers must also die to themselves. He promised that the glory to come would be worth it, but now He does more than promise: He gives a real glimpse of His glory in the kingdom of God. Jesus' shining appearance, Moses, Elijah, and the glorious presence and voice of God all confirm His glory and kingdom. But they also speak of His death, confirming that Jesus had to die before returning in glory.

Spotlight on the Gospel

The glory of God is revealed in Jesus Christ. True believers, then, are those who have seen this glory with the eyes of faith (2 Cor 4:6). They are so attracted to Jesus that they love, worship, and trust Him. They accept His death to pay for their sins, they follow Him wherever He leads even though it costs them everything, and they eagerly live pure lives in order to share in the pure glory of their Savior.

LAST WEEK



Jesus defines discipleship

Mark 8:27–38

THIS WEEK



**Jesus is gloriously
transfigured**

Luke 9:27–36

NEXT WEEK



**Jesus confronts the rich
young ruler**

Matthew 19:16–26

JESUS' MINISTRY IN GALILEE

JESUS' JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM

Lesson Commentary

Jesus is the King of Glory.

Jesus had just taught the disciples a hard lesson. Their Messiah was going to be rejected and killed (Luke 9:22). And if they wanted to be His followers, they needed to deny themselves and follow Jesus, even unto death (9:23). Is all this worth it? Jesus said it was worth it because of the glory to come (9:26), and now He was going to prove it by showing the disciples His glory.

Jesus is the glorious King (9:27–29)

This is exactly what Jesus said He would do. Some of His disciples would see the **kingdom of God** before their death (9:27). They would get a glimpse of Jesus' personal and glorious reign on earth when He returns (9:26). But why did He show only some of them? Jesus took three disciples in order to have three witnesses (9:28; Deut 19:15), but He took only Peter, John, and James because, as a good leader, He knew the value of investing a lot in a few (Luke 8:51; Mark 14:33).

So what did He show them? Jesus began by praying, as He often did right before showing His **divinity, His nature as God** (Luke 9:18; Mark 6:46). As He prayed, His face became as bright as the sun (Matt 17:2), and His clothes became whiter than even the most carefully washed laundry (Mark 9:3), flashing like lightning (Luke 9:29). This passage shows that Jesus is more glorious than Moses, the one most honored by the Jews. Like Jesus, Moses' face shone after hearing God's voice on a mountain covered in a cloud of glory (Exod 24:15–18; 34:29–35). But the light in Moses' face was only a fading reflection of God's fiery glory (24:17; 2 Cor 3:13), and Moses could hide the glow behind a veil (Exod 34:35). In contrast, Jesus' glory was His own, shining out from Him so powerfully that His clothes blazed with light.

The disciples were seeing who Jesus really was: the

Lord of glory (1 Cor 2:8; Jas 2:1), the exact image of God and radiance of God's glory (Heb 1:3). This is the **glory** Jesus now has in heaven, the bright, blazing light that blinded Paul (Acts 9:3–9), made John fall down as if dead (Rev 1:13–17), and will one day cause all men to bow at His feet (Matt 24:30; Phil 2:9–11). When He returns, His glory will shine for all believers so brightly that no sun is needed (Rev 21:23). Thus Jesus fulfills Isaiah's prophecy: "And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together" (Isa 40:5). Just as Jesus had promised, the disciples saw the kingdom of God, for they saw the LORD, the King of glory (Ps 24:7–10).

Jesus is the glorious sacrifice (9:30–33)

Then Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus (Luke 9:30)! They were two more witnesses about Jesus and His mission (Deut 19:15). But why these two? First, both of these men had had their own experiences of God's glorious presence on a mountain (Exod 24:15–18; 1 Kgs 19:11–13), so now their presence confirmed Christ's divine glory. Second, both men were connected with the coming kingdom. Moses foretold Jesus and foreshadowed the deliverance Jesus would accomplish (Deut 18:15; Isa 61:1; John 6:14), and Elijah was the one who would prepare people for the kingdom (Mal 3:1; 4:5–6). Third, Moses represented the law, and Elijah represented the prophets, verifying Jesus' divine glory from the whole Old Testament.

They also verified Jesus' mission as they talked about Jesus' "departure" (Luke 9:31). The exact word here is "exodus," again presenting Jesus as a second but greater Moses. But Jesus' "exodus" would be His coming death in Jerusalem. Jesus knew Peter still did not want to accept His death (Mark 8:32), so Jesus brought Moses and Elijah along to confirm that His death must precede His kingdom.

Though wide awake now (Luke 9:32), Peter was still spiritually groggy. As always, he loved Jesus and wanted to be with Him, but he still wanted the kingdom without the cross. He wanted to build tents (9:33), since this event occurred at the time of the **Feast of**



THINK ABOUT IT
Jesus' glory shows that He is God (Dan 7:9–10).

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Booths, Israel's celebration of deliverance from Egypt by living in temporary shelters made of branches (Lev 23:34–43).

Knowing that the Feast of Booths was also part of the coming kingdom (Zech 14:16–19), and observing Christ's

glory, Moses and Elijah, and talk of the “exodus,” Peter rightly concluded he was experiencing the kingdom. But he wrongly concluded that the kingdom was there to stay, without the cross coming first.



THINK ABOUT IT

Unless sin is atoned for, the curse cannot be undone.

Jesus is the glorious Son (9:34–36)

God interrupted Peter's words with an unusual cloud, one that shined with light (Luke 9:34; Matt 17:5). This was God's own glorious presence, the same glory that had protected Israel at the Red Sea (Exod 14:19–20), led Israel through the wilderness (13:21), and filled the tabernacle and the temple (40:34–35; 1 Kgs 8:10–11). Naturally, the disciples were terrified to be enveloped in this cloud of glory (cf. Isa 6:5; Ezek 1:28; Rev 1:17), and all the more so when God spoke out of the fiery cloud as He had done to Israel 1500 years before (Luke 9:35; Exod 19:9, 16; Deut 4:12). Truly a powerful experience!

Yet God's message is the point. First, God said that Jesus is His **Son**. As the Son, Jesus is God, just as a son of a human is human. As the Son, Jesus was obeying the Father by going to the cross. As the Son, Jesus is honored by the Father as the King who would triumph and rule over the earth forever (Ps 2; Phil 2:9–11). Second, Jesus is the **Chosen One**, the perfect Servant of God, who brings justice, establishes the new covenant, is a light for the nations, opens blind eyes, and sets prisoners free (Isa 42:1, 6–7). This was a glorious task, but one that required His death for sins (53:10). Third, God said, “Listen to Him!” (Luke 9:35; Deut 18:15), confirming Jesus' divine authority and teaching. The disciples needed to listen to Jesus' hard words. They needed to accept His coming death and choose to follow Him into self-denial, humiliation, and death. They needed

to believe that Jesus would rise again, return in glory, and make the high cost of discipleship worth it.

After such a powerful message, why did Jesus tell Peter, James, and John to keep silent until after His death and resurrection (Luke 9:36; Matt 17:9)? Announcing His great glory would not have been fitting until after sin had been paid for and death defeated. But then why did Jesus show His glory at all? He knew what His disciples would face. Peter, James, and John all experienced rejection and suffering during life, and in the end Peter and James were martyred, and John was exiled to a barren island in his old age. They needed to remember this glimpse of glory, so that in the darkest day, they could have this hope: one day they would enter into this glory again, and in that day the glory will never end.

THINK ABOUT IT

One day every believer will see and share in Christ's glory (John 17:24; Phil 3:21).



We can see how deeply these disciples were affected by Jesus' **transfiguration**, His appearing in glory. First, they fell in love with the beauty of Christ's shining glory. They understood that those who see God's light love His light and do not walk in the darkness of sin (1 John 1:5–7). They were so overjoyed to share in God's own glorious nature that they urged everyone to turn from corruption and pursue godliness (2 Pet 1:3–7). Second, they teach us the same message God was teaching them: listen to Jesus. When following Jesus leads you into suffering and pain, pay attention to His words “as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts” (1:19). May we, like Peter, be so taken with the glory of Jesus that we trust His words and endure every hardship for the sake of His coming glory.

Lesson Outline

Jesus is the King of Glory.

AGES 3–5 LESSON OUTLINE



1. Jesus is glorious because He shines (9:27–29).
2. Jesus is glorious because He sacrificed Himself (9:30–33).
3. Jesus is glorious because He is the Father's chosen Son (9:34–36).

AGES 6–11 LESSON OUTLINE



1. Jesus is the glorious King (9:27–29).
 - Jesus said some would live to see the kingdom of God (9:27).
 - Jesus appeared in glory (9:28–29).
2. Jesus is the glorious sacrifice (9:30–33).
 - Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus (9:30).
 - They talked about His death in Jerusalem (9:31).
 - Peter loved the glory but forgot the cross (9:32–33).
3. Jesus is the glorious Son (9:34–36).
 - A cloud terrified the disciples (9:34).
 - A voice commanded them to listen to God's chosen Son (9:35).
 - The disciples told no one until after the resurrection (9:36).



TEACH THE BIBLE LESSON

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Lesson Questions

Use these questions to teach or to review this week's lesson.



Ages 3–5 Lesson Questions

1. **When Jesus changed, what did He look like?**
His face shined like the sun, and His clothes were bright white like lightning.
2. **Who appeared with Jesus?**
Moses and Elijah.
3. **What did Peter want to build?**
Three tents (shelters or booths).
4. **What did God say out of the cloud?**
He said Jesus was His Son, His chosen One, so listen to Him.



Ages 6–11 Lesson Questions

1. **What did Jesus promise that some of the disciples would see before they died?**
The kingdom of God, which is the Son of God on earth in His glory.
2. **Why did Jesus want to show them this?**
To encourage His disciples. To show them that the high cost of discipleship was worth it.
3. **What did the light pouring out of Jesus show about Him?**
It showed that He has divine glory in Himself. He is God, the Lord of glory.
4. **What did Moses and Elijah talk about with Jesus?**
They talked about His coming “exodus” in Jerusalem, which means His death.
5. **Why did Peter want to build shelters?**
He understood that he was seeing the kingdom, and he wanted it to stay.
6. **What things helped Peter realize that this was a glimpse of the kingdom?**
The glory of Christ, the presence of Moses and Elijah, the second “exodus,” and the Feast of Booths are all aspects of the kingdom.
7. **How do the terms “Son” and “Chosen One” show both glory and death?**
The Son is the King and the Chosen One is the great deliverer, but the Son obeys the Father to the point of death, and the Chosen One is the servant who dies to pay for sin.
8. **What is the last thing God says, and the point of the whole transfiguration?**
“Listen to Him.” Because of Jesus’ glory, accept His words, His death, and the cost of following Him.

Lesson Activities

Choose from the following ideas to introduce, illustrate, and apply this week's lesson.

AGES 3–5



TRANSFIGURATION

A transfiguration is a change in form. In the case of Jesus, He supernaturally changed from His human form to His godly form as Lord and Savior. This concept may be explained by discussing disguises. When someone wears a disguise, it hides who that person is. Disguise yourself and explain that this disguise hides your identity. In today's lesson, Jesus will be transfigured. His body was like a disguise that hid His glory as God.

FALSELY ACCUSED

Help the children understand the importance of the testimony the three disciples received concerning Jesus' identity. Tell a story with puppets about two children who are in a grocery store when one of them gets accused by the store manager of breaking something. While the one child can testify that the other child did not do anything, the store manager will not believe it. But when several adults come and testify to the boy's innocence, the store manager has no choice but to admit he was wrong. Tell the children that in today's lesson they are going to hear several testimonies about who Jesus is. Tell them to listen closely for them.



UNDERSTANDING THE TRANSFIGURATION

A classic example of transfiguration is the progression from caterpillar to butterfly. Bring in pictures to the class of each stage of a butterfly's transformation: caterpillar, cocoon, and butterfly. You might also show a brief video clip. Young children will be fascinated to learn about the wonders of God's creation. Discuss how God the Son added on humanity when He became a man. Describe how He grew from infancy to manhood. Then explain how He was transformed and showed His glory to His disciples on the mountain.

WHITE, WHITER, WHITEST

Bring in three white cloths or garments, one that is quite dirty, one only slightly dirty, and one completely clean. Hold up the first: what color is this? White. What about this one (the second)? White. Is it the same color as the first? No, it's whiter. What about this one (the third)? It is even whiter! Mark 9:3 says Jesus' clothes were shining so brightly that they were whiter than any clothes on earth!



THE CLOUD AND THE TRANSFIGURATION

See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 1*.

Materials: Craft sheet, glue, scissors, and crayons.

Directions: Color and decorate the cloud that descended during the transfiguration with cotton balls. Small gold or silver streamers could also be glued or a highlighter used on the craft sheet to represent the light that came from the transfigured Christ. Cut out the picture of the three men in white from the second craft page and glue to the first craft sheet in the middle of the cloud.

The Cloud and the Transfiguration
See *Year 3 Craft Book, Book 1*



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AGES 6–8



BIOLUMINESCENCE

Is the production and emission of light by a living organism. Fireflies are one of many creatures able to generate their own light. In fact, before the development of the safety lamp, bottles containing fireflies were used by coal miners as a safe source of light. Show children a picture of a firefly—or actual firefly—and talk about this magnificent example of God’s creation. Tell the class that in today’s lesson we’re going to learn about something far greater: the dazzling light that shone forth from Jesus when He revealed His glory to Peter, James, and John.

IT IS ALL IN THE NAME!

When God said to the disciples, “This is my Son,” He was revealing to them that Jesus is God. Ask the children where they got their last names. Their names were given by their parents, and having the same name as them means that they belong to them. Talk about the origin of your family, explaining to them that you know all this because of what your last name is. In the same way, God referring to Jesus as His “Son” tells us a lot about who Jesus the Messiah is.



REFLECT VERSES RADIATE

Bring in a glow-in-the-dark star or some other object that glows in the dark (not a glow stick—it must glow by retaining light, not from a chemical reaction). Hold it close to the light to charge it, then turn off the lights to see it glow. Explain that this is what Moses was like after he was in God’s presence—he reflected God’s glory (Exod 34:29). Now turn on a very bright flashlight. Explain that just as the flashlight is much brighter and radiates its own light, so Jesus’ glory was much greater than Moses’ and came from Himself.

DEPARTURE

Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus and spoke about His “departure” (Luke 9:31). This word is commonly depicted at airports by a silhouette of an airplane taking off. Show the children a picture of this symbol, and ask them if they’ve ever seen it before. Is this the same kind of “departure” Moses and Elijah were talking about? No. Jesus was getting ready to fly to His Father, but it would not be on an airplane. Jesus would fly to His Father by means of the cross. Jesus’ “departure” was His coming death in Jerusalem.



DO YOU BELIEVE?

See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 1.

Materials: Craft sheets, glue, scissors, and crayons.

Directions: Have the students color and cut the tent pieces. Color each piece a different color as each one represents a different tribe of Israel. Glue 2 tents to the craft sheet in the Southern Kingdom and 10 tents in the Northern Kingdom. Color the water blue and the land brown and green.

*Do You Believe?
See Year 3 Craft Book, Book 1*



AGES 9–11



INTRODUCE

LISTEN TO HIM!

Create a test to see how well the children listen. Write instructions at the top of the page: “Read everything before answering. Whoever finishes first wins.”

Then list a series of questions or commands (state capital, number of books in Old Testament, spin around, 7 x 7, shout your name, etc.). For the last question, write: “To complete this assignment, write your name in the upper right hand corner and sit quietly (do not answer the other questions).” In today’s lesson, God told Peter, John, and James to “listen!” to His Son (Luke 9:35). They were to give all their attention to what He said.

SECRET

Have you ever been told a secret? Why were you supposed to keep what you knew a secret? How long were you able to keep it a secret? In today’s lesson, Peter, James, and John were allowed to see the glory of Christ. What an amazing sight! Yet Jesus told them to keep what they saw a secret (Luke 9:36; Matt 17:9). Why do you think Jesus told them to keep it a secret? And why did Jesus show them His glory if they couldn’t tell anyone? We’ll find out in today’s lesson.



ILLUSTRATE

BLACK LIGHT

Another way to visualize the way Jesus’ clothes might have looked during His transfiguration is to have the class stand in front of a black light. When the lights are turned off, the class should be able to see their clothes (especially white clothes) shine with great brightness. Talk about how white Jesus’ clothes were on that day.

UNDERCOVER BOSS

Is a hit television series that features senior executives who disguise themselves as entry-level employees in their own company in order to learn more about their business and employees. Imagine how their employees feel when their true identity is finally revealed and they realize they’ve been working with their boss the entire time! In today’s lesson, Jesus’ true identity is revealed to Peter, James, and John. What an amazing sight!



APPLY

PURE LIGHT

Bring a strong flashlight, a circle of black paper, a circle of wax paper, and a circle of clear shrink wrap (or a clear glass lens). Turn the lights off, the flashlight on, and explain: We have seen Jesus’ bright, shining glory, and we have had the chance to share in His glory. But His glory is pure and does not mix with sin. Put black paper over flashlight and explain that if you have not repented and been forgiven of your sin, or if you keep living in sin, you will not experience the beauty of Christ’s glory in your life. But if you repent, Christ’s glory will begin to change you (put wax paper over light). And as you live in purity, Christ’s glory will pour into and through you (put clear shrink wrap or glass), and one day you will be just like Him, sharing in His shining glory.