Eyewitnesses of Christ’s Majesty

The Transfiguration - Series A
Based On: Exodus 24:8-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21 and Matthew 17:1-9
Bible Story: The Transfiguration - Matthew 17:1-9

The Objective of this Lesson is to:
Share how being eyewitnesses to the majesty of Christ transforms faith to both be content and help others to be content for generations.

Opening Song: “We’re Transformed”
Sung to the tune of “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” LSB 427/ TLH 354/ LW 101 Tune: Public Domain Text: Used by permission, Family Crossfires Ministries, Inc. © 2019

1. We’re transformed through faith, forgiveness, Which can only come from Christ; Through His suffering and death for us, We now have eternal life.

2. Transformed, we can see our Savior, See Him in His majesty; Son of God, our faith He strengthens So we can contented be.

Opening: “Transformed”
It is Transfiguration Sunday. We will hear about when Jesus was revealed to be the Son of God. It is an absolutely amazing story, but for right now, all we need to remember is that because Jesus is the Son of God, all believers are transformed from sinner to saint through the forgiveness of our sins. Our transformation is one part of the secret of contentment we will be learning about in this UIM SS Series. It is also the power God uses to bind generations together in and through His love, the theme and mission for our current UIM year.

Reminder: This week and every few weeks, thereafter, take time to look at the UIM theme for this year, the theme for UIM SS Series, and the Bible verse that goes with it, found in the instructions to this Leader’s Guide in a separate file on your CD.

God’s Word For Us Today

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. 2 Peter 1:16

GOD’S WORD APPLICATION
God revealed Jesus in all of His majesty right before the eyes of the disciples. Being eyewitnesses of His majesty transformed and strengthened them in their faith to do great things for the Lord. The Bible makes us eyewitness of the majesty of Christ as we view all that we read in the Bible through the eyes of faith. Discuss how and why we become eyewitnesses of Christ’s majesty by reading God’s Word.

An Interactive Bible Story for every Generation:
In our Bible Story, we will hear about Jesus’ Transfiguration. However, to see Jesus in His majesty as His disciples did, we must do more than hear this story. We must believe it and only the Holy Spirit can make the faith to believe happen in us. Then, not because we read God’s Word but because the Spirit works in us, the most wonderful thing happens! We are transformed by God’s Spirit to be content and thoroughly equipped to help others to be content for generations.

Christ’s Transfiguration
Based on: Matthew 17:1-9
1. **What were the names of the disciples Jesus took with Him up to the mountain?** Matthew 17:1. Answer: Peter, James, and John. Peter’s energy, zeal, and love all played an important part in the founding of the Church (Matthew 16:18); John was beloved by Christ and would receive the Divine revelation to write the book of Revelation; James became the head of the Church of Jerusalem and would drink of Christ’s cup. This James, the son of Zebedee and brother of John, was put to death by Herod Agrippa (Acts 12). *Discuss why you think these disciples were chosen.*

2. **When He was transfigured, what did Jesus’ clothes became as white as?** Matthew 17:2. Answer Light. This was no ordinary light. One commentary explains that there never was nor ever will be any light upon earth that could make clothes as white as Christ’s were. Jesus did not show His Divine nature in its entirety. We won’t see that until we see Him face to face (1 Corinthians 13:12). Jesus’ body remained in its entirety, but something indescribably reverent and awesome permeated it and shone out of it. Peter called it majesty in our God’s Word For Us Today passage. Have everyone say it: “For we did not follow cleverly devised myths ...” *Discuss how just reading about the extraordinary light of Jesus’ clothes can transform us and help us to be content.*

3. **Who appeared before the disciples talking to Jesus?** Matthew 17:3 Answer: Moses and Elijah. These were not imaginary figures; they were real people. Luke 9:31 tells us they appeared in glory and spoke of His departure, which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. They appeared to encourage Jesus with words and to strengthen the faith of the disciples simply by appearing. *Discuss why and how the presence of Moses and Elijah strengthened the disciple’s faith.*

4. **Who wanted to put up three shelters?** Matthew 17:4 Answer: Peter. Peter was in awe of the majesty around him, and he wanted to keep it, to retain what he saw and felt. But, he had the wrong idea about what was happening. He did not need a shelter to retain the power of the Transfiguration. It was his as an eyewitness by faith. After they saw Jesus transfigures and Moses and Elijah left and he and the other two disciples walked down the mountain with Jesus and into all they would face because of Jesus’ death and His command to spread the Gospel after His ascension. Peter was not reprimanded for his wrong estimation of the situation. Instead, he received everything God intended by the experience of being an eyewitness of Christ’s transfiguration. *Discuss how God strengthens believers in their faith and lives today.*

5. **What overshadowed the disciples as Peter spoke?** Matthew 17:5. Answer: A cloud. As the cloud came over the disciples, they saw and even felt it coming. Imagine this happening to you. Luke 9:34 says, *they were afraid as they entered the cloud.* There was such solemnity and glory in it that it struck their minds with awe and fear. Fully captivated by this cloud whose brightness was a symbol of the divine presence, their eyes and hearts and souls were opened spiritually. Sometimes when we are about the work of spreading the Gospel, we forget the enormous spiritual significance of what we are doing. *Discuss how eyes and hearts and souls opened spiritually bring contentment to a discontented world for generations.*

6. **What spoke from the cloud?** Matthew 17:5. Answer: A voice. This voice declared both the speaker to be God and Jesus to be the Son of God. And, it is only because Jesus is the Son of God that our sins are forgiven and we are transformed from sinner to saint, able to be content, and help others to be content. *Discuss how being forgiven and transformed helps to make us content.*
7. **How did the disciples feel when they heard the voice?** Matthew 17:6. Answer: Terrified. They fell on their face because they were not able to stand before God, to behold His majesty and hear His voice. The awe of God has diminished in the eyes of many for a variety of reasons and, therefore, the contentment He gives has also diminished. That is why we not only need to behold His majesty and hear His voice in His Word and believe, but we need to be transformed to share what we see and hear in God’s Word. Discuss how our sharing the majesty of God can help people believe in Jesus and be content.

8. **Who told the disciples, “Don’t be afraid?”** Matthew 17:7. Answer: Jesus. Jesus gently and lovingly aroused them from their paralyzing fear by assuring them He was near so they had nothing to dread. This is similar to the comfort He gave the frightened disciples when He came to them walking on the water of the storm-tossed sea (Mark 6:8). Discuss how our knowing Jesus is near takes away fear and makes us content.

9. **Who looked up and saw no one but Jesus?** Matthew 17:8. Answer: The disciples. Seeing only Jesus is an important key to being content because only Jesus makes true and lasting contentment possible through His peace. Ever since man sinned and heard God's voice in the garden, unusual appearances of God have terrified mankind. Thankfully, through the blood of Christ, the sins that separate us from God and cause us to fear Him are washed away. With fear gone, peace can reign and we can truly be content. Discuss how our seeing only Jesus can bring lasting contentment to us and through us to a discontent world.

10. **Who commanded the disciples not to tell anyone about what had happened until He was raised from the dead?** Matthew 17:9. Answer: The Son of Man. Jesus’ resurrection would give credence to His Transfiguration and, therefore, to what the disciples would share about Him. Luke 9:36 tells us these disciples “kept silent and told no one.” Because they had been eye witnesses of His majesty, they had been transformed to believe in Jesus completely and obey Him without question. Discuss how believing what is written in the Bible helps us to believe completely, be content, and spread contentment in every generation.

As time allows: Read the accompanying study verses: Exodus 24:8-18 and 2 Peter 1:16-21. Discuss how these accompanying verses help to transform your faith to believe, be content, and pass your faith and contentment on for generations. Direct participants to the “Take Home, Grow, and Share” section on the last page where these instructions are printed for them in the box for family discussion.

CONCLUSION: The disciples were eyewitnesses of Christ’s majesty. His transfiguration, transformed them to believe in Him. They did not tell anyone what they had seen on the mountain, but they did share Christ for the rest of their lives. Today, every time we hear or read about Jesus we become His eyewitnesses through the power of the Holy Spirit. As we share Christ, He offers them faith to believe in Him and be content and help others believe and be content. This is how faith in Christ and His contentment are passed on for generations.

**Closing Prayer:**
Dear God, through Jesus Your Son and the power of Your Spirit, transform us to believe and be content. In our discontented world, please use us to spread the faith only Your Son can give to build faith and contentment in every generation. In the name of Jesus we ask it. Amen.
TAKE HOME, GROW, AND SHARE!

This week, if you have not already done so as part of your UIM congregational memory work program, inwardly digest the God’s Word For Us Today passage for this Lesson. Read it every day. Read it to those who cannot read. Recite it to each other. Type or print it out, and place it in your purse, wallet, on your desk, kitchen table, refrigerator door, night stand, anywhere and everywhere you will see it and read it constantly. Discuss with family and friends how these words from God strengthen you in faith and help you in your everyday lives.

Read and discuss the Bible Story for this lesson personally and with your family, especially the small children. With older family members, study the biblical account of this story in Matthew 17:1-9 and read the accompanying study verses Exodus 24:8-18 and 2 Peter 1:16-21. Discuss how these accompanying verses help to transform your faith to believe, be content, and pass your faith and contentment on for generations.