

Read



Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Psalms 27:1, 7-8, 8-9,
13-14

Philippians 3:17-4:1 or
3:20-4:1

Luke 9:28b-36

LIVING THE WORD

Second Sunday of Lent

March 17, 2019



REFLECTION

Have you ever been on a mission trip? Maybe to a culture or community that is different from the one you live in? The internal transformation that occurs for each person is profound. At first you may be timid because you are not sure of your role or you are afraid of speaking the language of those you are serving. Then an awakening occurs. As you work with your hands to build a home or as you take time to get to know those you are serving, your heart melts the fear and instead, love enters. You are never the same again. In today's Gospel, we learn of the Transfiguration, which Peter, John, and James literally awaken to. They recognize their ancient faith leaders in Moses and Elijah and believe more fully in Jesus' purpose. This aha moment becomes a treasure that they held on to. This is not unlike a mission trip where you return home and it becomes difficult to share the depth of transformation you have experienced. Yet pictures, journal writing, and meeting up for a reunion with the community you travelled with helps remind you that you do make a difference in awakening others to God's unconditional love.

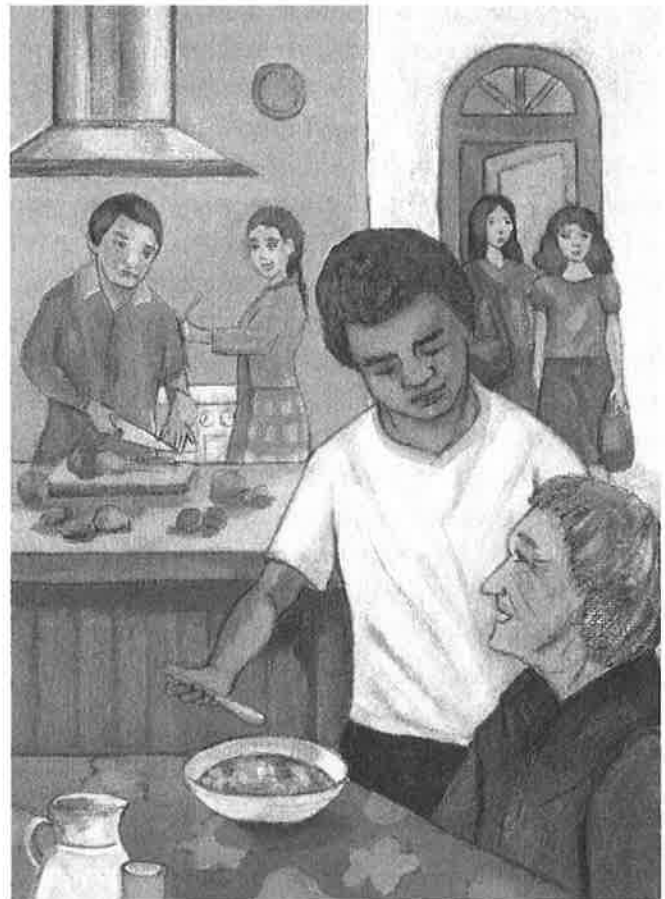
? QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ When have you experienced a transformation that helped you to know God's love for you?
- ❖ How does participating in service outreach help you connect with your faith?



ACTION

Plan a service project to do locally. Consider collecting food outside a grocery store to help stock the shelves of your local food bank. You'll need to get permission from the grocery store manager beforehand. Recruit others to join you! As you volunteer, consider how you are being transformed by the actions you are doing or by the community you are helping to form. Realize that your efforts do not go unnoticed and are sure to make a difference. Who knows, you may even transform someone's life.





March 17, 2019

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

LECTIONARY #27C

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Psalm 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14

Philippians 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1

Luke 9:28b-36

Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

Leader's Context

Still in the season of Lent, this second week of our preparations for Easter find us with a firm reminder: Jesus is the Son of God and he has come to reveal his glory to us. The First and Second Readings make direct reference to the trust we must place in God's great plan and the need to conform ourselves to his glory. The psalm directly references that we are to rely upon the Lord as the source of light and salvation. But it is the Gospel that shows the clearest example of the revelation of Jesus' glory as he transfigures before three of his Apostles, showing the fullness of his divinity. This week's Gospel tells the remarkable story of the Transfiguration, a moment unlike any other in the lives of Peter, James, and John. Jesus transfigures before them, showing his great glory. The Apostles are amazed at this moment, shocked at what they are witnessing, and strengthened in their faith. It is a story that shows us that we are meant to have immense trust in God's great plan, even when it is not very clear to us, and how we are called to believe that he will show us (in his time and way) who he is and what he is doing.

Q FOCUS: *To see with the eyes of faith.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

This week, the Church celebrates St. Joseph, the spouse of Mary and foster father to Jesus. He provided an example of what one's life can be like when

they bask in the great glory of the Lord. St. Joseph, who says next to nothing and is a seemingly minor character in Scripture, provides a great example of humility, hard work, diligence, fortitude, and extreme faith. How appropriate that St. Joseph should be honored during Lent, a time when we are called to increase in faith and persevere in our consistent sacrifices for the Lord as we prepare for Easter. Furthermore, he gives a great example of the faith the psalm calls us to today, to believe that we must seek the face of Christ and look to him to see his fullness. St. Joseph did just that, and we are called to do the same.

Church Teaching Connection

"The event of the Transfiguration marks a decisive moment in the ministry of Jesus. It is a revelatory event which strengthens the faith in the disciples' hearts, prepares them for the tragedy of the Cross and prefigures the glory of the Resurrection" (Vita consecrata, 15).

Hear the Word

Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory.

Gospel

Luke 9:28b-36

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray. While he was praying, his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white. And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem. Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." But he did not know what he was saying. While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone may be seated.

Reflect on the Word

When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today.

Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives?

Then begin the following reflection:

► **Have you ever seen something jaw dropping?** Maybe it was a great feat of daring, like a tight rope walker at the circus? Or maybe you witnessed a terrible accident and saw people walk away from it unscathed? Or perhaps you had the privilege of witnessing the underdog team eke out a barely-made-it win at the last minute over their regular rival?

Either way, when we see things that are shocking or surprising, we tend to stand in awe at what has happened and try to quickly process how it could be and why it is so. Today's readings give examples of moments that are jaw dropping, with people that

are trying to do just that. (*You may need to recap the other readings since only the Gospel was proclaimed at today's session.*)

► **How could this be and why is it happening?**

► **What do you think are the jaw-dropping moments from the First Reading and the Gospel today? Why are these two moments jaw dropping?**

God shows us incredible things, and he asks us to trust him immensely even when we can't see what he has in store. In the Gospel, it's the Transfiguration of Jesus. In our case, who knows what God has in store! God may be asking us to trust him in a variety of ways, and it's up to us to figure out what those are.

Name a time in your life when you've felt that God may have been asking you to trust him but you were challenged, or you didn't think you could because it seemed too hard.

► **How did you handle that situation? How are you handling it now (if it's current)?**

► **What could you do to trust God more?**

► **How can any of us seek out understanding when it seems as if God is asking the impossible?**

Today's Gospel gives another example of an amazing moment when God, in a very real way, confirms why we trust in him. Peter, James, and John, three of Jesus' most trusted Apostles, are led up to the top of a mountain where they see Jesus transfigured. He completely changes before their very eyes, his clothes glistening white. They see Jesus talking to two prophets of old, Moses and Elijah. They hear the very voice of the Father proclaiming that he is pleased with his son and commanding they listen to him. It's an astonishing moment, one that certainly dropped their jaws.

► **How do Peter, James, and John respond? What do they suggest they do when they see Jesus transfigured before their very eyes?**

► **Why would they want to pitch tents on top of the mountain and stay there? Isn't this something to proclaim from the rooftops, telling everyone what they've just seen? Why would they hesitate?**

► What would keep them from going and shouting this out to everyone?

These three Apostles are privileged to see the great glory of God before them. They are blessed with the opportunity to witness Jesus as fully God and fully man, and they literally fall silent in their moment of shock and awe, relishing in this moment when their long-tested trust in who Jesus has said he was for years is confirmed right before their very eyes. Their continued trust in God results in this jaw-dropping moment of revelation. Their faith is confirmed. They are witnesses to the Transfiguration. And they can hold on to this in their continued ministry.

► What do you think you would have done or said if you had been on top of the mountain during the Transfiguration? What would your reaction have been? Why?

► If you were lucky enough to witness a moment such as this, do you think your faith in Christ would have been confirmed and your continued trust in God strengthened?

Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 158.

We are called to trust in God's greater plan, at all moments, even when we can't necessarily see what he has in store.

We are also called to see with the eyes of faith and be amazed at what God has to offer us, recognizing that he reveals all things in due time.

Act on the Word

Split the teens up into groups of four or five people each. Each group must come up with a machine that they must act out with their bodies (for example, a toaster). Each person in the group must somehow be engaged in the acting out of the machine/device. The machine can be as complex or simple as the group chooses. Once every group has formed and developed their machine, they must

operate their machine and show the action of the machine to the large group. People will guess what machine they are. After each machine has been demonstrated, instruct the groups to pair up (so two groups morph into one group). They must now combine their machines into one cohesive story/machine operation. (For example, one group is a piano, one group is an elevator, so now they are an elevator with music). After two groups have morphed into one, and machines have been combined, continue combining and transforming groups (in as many rounds as needed) before you have one large group that operates one large machine.

Connection to the Gospel: Things transform and transfigure before us, each time making more and more clear what the precise plan is for that specific machine. When Jesus transfigured before Peter, James, and John, they were stunned and in awe of the great glory of God they were privileged to witness. They were a bit confused but also remarkably blessed to be in Christ's presence during this remarkable moment. Likewise, when we transformed these machines, group by group, things became somewhat confusing but gradually crystalized, becoming even fun and something we wanted to continue doing.

Closing Prayer

*All powerful God,
open our eyes this Lent
to see what you dream for us
so that we may become closer to an image of you.
May we love our sisters and brothers as you do,
and may we always act transfigured,
in justice, charity, peace, and love.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at www.ltp.org/lwgr. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends. If your parish will be celebrating the first scrutiny with those preparing for Baptism at the Easter Vigil, the Year A readings may be used. The handout and session for the Year A readings are found in the appendix of this book on pages 249-252.