



The Spirit of St. Paul's

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

www.stpaulslutheran.ca

FEBRUARY 2023

Pastor

Faith? Or Feelings?

There can be times in our lives when we might feel like we are disconnected and distant from God. We might feel like our faith is weak or maybe we even wonder if there is any faith left in our heart at all. We can experience things that leave us feeling more doubtful than faithful. We can be lost for words when we try to pray. We can feel a sense of despair and hopelessness and wonder if salvation remains for us. These can be dark and lonely times and can leave us feeling downcast and lost. At times like these we need to remember God's promise that we are never alone and that He is always there to help us in our weakness. We need to remember that weak faith is still faith. Faith does not receive God's grace, the forgiveness of sins and eternal life because it is strong—but because it is faith. Our salvation is not based on how we feel, but on what God has done for us through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

St. Paul teaches that the Holy Spirit acts on our behalf, "...the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with

groanings too deep for words" (Romans 8:26). Even when we are struggling and confused the Holy Spirit fosters and preserves our faith. God does not turn away but devotes Himself to healing and strengthening us when we are languishing. Jesus teaches, "If you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move and nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20). Faith, even as small as a mustard seed, can move the mountains of temptation and doubt.

If you are struggling with matters of faith, trust in God's Word of promise and not in your feelings. Focus not on the weakness of your faith but on the strength of God. Christ Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). Be fed and nourished by God's Word and Sacraments. Pray with the disciples, "Lord, increase our faith" (Luke 8:11) and with the father of the boy with an unclean spirit, "Lord I believe, help my unbelief" (Mark 9:24) and know that God will. Our



feelings should never be used to measure our faith. They come and go. When we are sleeping we do not feel our faith, but it is still there to save us. Our feelings change, but the Word of the Lord remains forever (1 Peter 1:25).

Increase my faith, dear Saviour,
For Satan seeks by night and day
To rob me of this treasure
And take my hope of bliss away.
But, Lord, with You beside me,
I shall be undismayed;
And led by Your good Spirit,
I shall be unafraid.
Abide with me, O Saviour,
A firmer faith bestow;
Then I shall bid defiance
To ev'ry evil foe. (LSB #587, v.2)

*God's blessings,
Pastor Keith*

Reminders

- Please remember that, because we have a number of members with allergies to nuts, any foods brought to church events should be nut-free.
- Also, several have allergies to fragrances. Please consider them when choosing toiletries and whether or not to wear perfumes.
- LWMLC mites and society offerings may be put in the offering plate, mailed to the church or given to society treasurer, Marion Hollinger. Please make any cheques payable to St. Paul's Lutheran Church but mark them clearly as being for LWMLC. Indicate the amount for mites and the amount for society funds.



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Evangelism

Good News: God's Perfect Love

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in Him.'" (Lamentations 3:22-24 ESV)

These words of God (recorded by the prophet Jeremiah) have often brought me comfort and peace, especially as I miss the love of my parents and other dear ones who are gone from this earth. How blessed we are to know that God's love does not waver or come to an end. As it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be!

"... God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8 ESV)

When Adam and Eve brought sin and death into the perfect world God had made, He had good reason to disown us as unlovely and unlovable. Yet, His response was to promise a rescue mission (see Genesis 3). How thankful we can be that our loving God fulfilled His promise by sending His Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, to lay down His life on the cross as full and final payment for the sin of all humanity. Three days later, an

empty tomb and Jesus' appearance to many witnesses confirmed His Father's acceptance of His sacrifice and the victory He won for us.

"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as He is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because He first loved us" (1 John 4:15-19 ESV).

As a child, it was my parents' love that assured me I had no reason to be fearful. These words of God (recorded by the apostle John) point out that, through faith in Christ Jesus, God (His Heavenly Father and ours) lives in us and fills us with His perfect love. When God looks at us, He sees Christ's perfection. Since Christ has saved us from God's wrath, we are assured that we have no reason to be fearful when His

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Classifieds

Something to sell or give away? Need something? Services to offer to fellow members? Try The Spirit Classifieds first. No cost. Leave your ads at the church office or give them to the editor.

FOR SALE:

Adele Wagner's condo at 311-2213 Adelaide St, near Market Mall is for sale. About 1060 sq. ft. Contact Denise Timm at 306-497-2285 or 306-222-5864 for more information.

Our apologies for mistakenly trying to sell Merle Timm's condo in December. 'Twas the wrong "mom."

Stewardship, continued

final judgment comes.

It burdens my heart that many people in our world have yet to hear the good news of God's love for them, to read the promises God's Word holds for them, and to acknowledge Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. I humbly pray: Dear Lord God Heavenly Father, please guide each one of us according to Your will and the gifts You have given us, to share the good news of Your perfect love with others. I ask it in Jesus' Name. Amen.

*Verla Schmirler
for Board of Evangelism*

Stewardship

Don't Replace "And" with "Or"

We've all heard that stewardship means giving to the church of our time, talents and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. As we confess in the Small Catechism's explanation of the First Article of the Apostle's Creed, God gives us everything we have and enjoy. First, we confess that God gives us "our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses" (SC II). Then we confess that He gives us material things. The time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all three of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have, and indeed, everything we are, comes from God's fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word — when we replace the word *and* with the word *or*. It is always written with the *and*, but when we read it, we read it with the *or*. Thus this quite helpful trinity, which extolls that everything that we have and are is a gift from God, to be given back in service of His church, turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose from when we serve God. The giving of our time, talents *and* treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents *or* treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasure? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give of our treasure and not of

Welcome to our family



Nola Grace Behnke was welcomed into the Lord's family at St. Paul's on Sunday, January 29, 2023.

our time and talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. Rather, they are given to us, and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbours in need.

Thus, we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbours.

For God has provided all these things for us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents *AND* treasure as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbours with these things,

continued next page

Stewardship, continued

blessing them with the blessings with which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents and treasure to our families, our society, our church and our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price: the holy, precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything—His time, His talents and His

treasure—to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love—time, talents and treasure together.

Board of Stewardship



Education

KIDS CORNER

GROWING HEARTS OF FAITH

One Lord, One faith, One baptism (Ephesians 4:5)

Hey Kids!

Great news!! Sunday School, after church on Sundays, has started again! Grab your parents and bring them along! (Or is it the other way around?!). Anyway, we'll be reading Bible stories, doing crafts, learning Catechism parts (Ten Commandments, Apostle's Creed, Lord's Prayer, etc.), singing and maybe even snacking! Did I mention you can earn pins for memorizing the Catechism stuff?

Here comes February! What have we got happening? We'll be finishing Epiphany in two weeks, then there's Transfiguration Sunday, Ash Wednesday on the 22nd and the Sundays in Lent start the last week of the month. "Whoa! Slow down!", you say, "What do all those mean?!" I'm glad you asked!

The Transfiguration of our Lord is when... Jesus took Peter

and James and John, up to a high mountain where the sun shone brightly and the glory of the Lord was revealed in His face. Peter cried out, "Let us live in this place! One for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah... three tents praising the glory of God!" Oops! Sorry! That song always gets stuck in my head when I hear the word Transfiguration. It means to be changed into something more beautiful. That's what happened to Jesus on the mountain. We'll be hearing the story and singing that song in Sunday school on February 19. There's also Pastor Cooper's activity page from last year you can do. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. On that day, there is a special church service. The pastor puts a cross of ashes on our foreheads to remind us of Jesus dying on the cross for us. Lent lasts

for about six weeks before Good Friday and Easter. It's a good time to think about how much Jesus loves us... so much that He would even die, so that when we die, we will live with Him in heaven! No wonder February also has Valentine's Day in it! Jesus taught us how to love, so we can share His love with others.

Well, now there's three ways to learn about Jesus!

1) For the early risers, there's the online Sunday school with Jim Jacob (Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, London, Ontario).

2) Pastor Cody Cooper's last year's activity sheets provided at the end of each newsletter and/or in church. Also online at lll.ca for this year's sheets.

3) Sunday School at church after Divine Service. This is the BEST and MOST FUN option! See you soon!

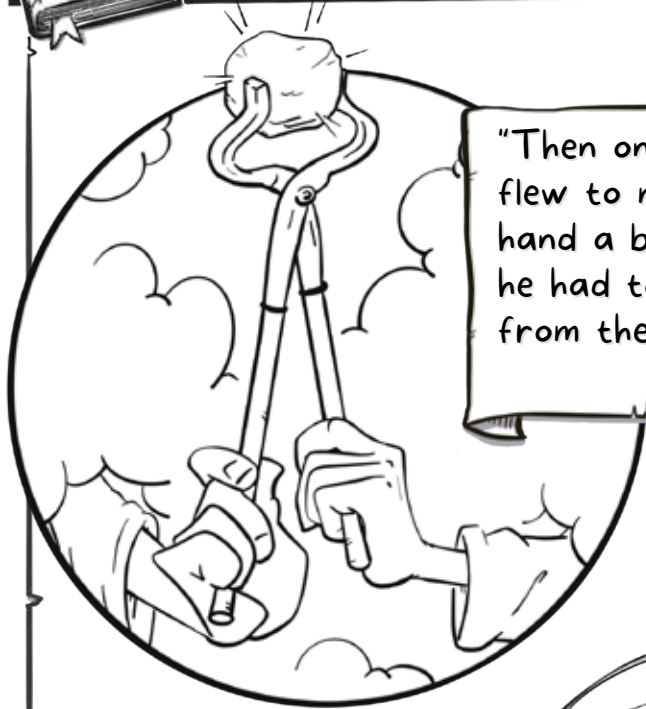
*Denise Timm and Lisa Poier
St. Paul's Sunday School*



Kids Lectionary Learning 5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

Bible Lessons

ISAIAH 6:1-8;
1 COR. 14:12B-20;
LUKE 5:1-11



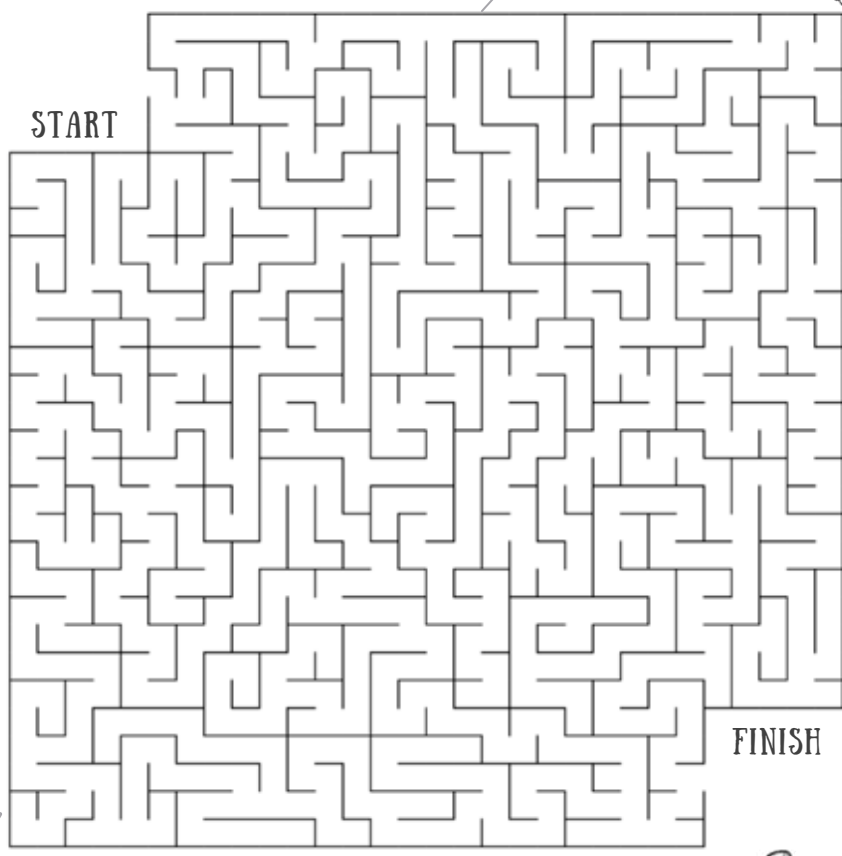
"Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar."

- Isaiah 6:6 (ESV)

Today we hear about an angel with a burning coal, encouragement to build each other up, and some really good fishing advice and call from Jesus to follow Him.

Grab your Bibles and let's learn more.

Lil' Lou is a bit confused. He remembers the verse in our from Luke 5:10 about "catching men", but he is pretty sure that using a fishing pole isn't what Jesus was talking about. What did Jesus mean when He told Simon he would be, "catching men"?



"Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."

- Luke 5:10 (ESV)



Kids Lectionary Learning 5TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

"Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature."

- 1 Cor. 14:20 (ESV)

WORD SEARCH

In our gospel reading today we hear how Jesus does an amazing thing for some fishermen, and then calls them follow Him.

Read through Luke 5:1-11 and then try and find the words in our Word Search.

- | | |
|---------|----------|
| HEAR | TAUGHT |
| WORD | CATCH |
| BOATS | FISH |
| WASHING | FOLLOWED |
| NETS | JESUS |

C A T C H D M L W L
 Z U O H H I F I C F
 E F A O R F B K X H
 M T F L L N O Y L Q
 C R B O P W A J U U
 N D V S L K T D Y R
 E T J E X L S J U X
 T W A E R R O N Y W
 S H A U S P D W D O
 G Y L S G U B Q E R
 H E A R H H S D F D
 O R N C A I T P I K
 P U H U Q H N O S Q
 J D S P J G H G H Z
 B K W G U U Q F B K



"But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking."

- Luke 5:5-6 (ESV)

Kate is having trouble moving just one fish.

Imagine how many fish must have been in the nets to cause them to start breaking. Wow.

Jesus did an amazing thing that day, and He does amazing things for us today, too. Jesus gives us gifts of love, faith, and much more.

What is something you are thankful that Jesus has given you?



Kids Lectionary Learning 6TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY



"the firstfruits"

- 1 Cor. 15:20 (ESV)

H J X K Z P F R S J
W U V B P Y H U B M
R L N H Q O Z R L Z
Q A O G E Y O W C L
Y U R Y R A I R T N
R G G F A Y R H T A
R H B L E S S E D T
I R O B Q A T F O S
C O M H G M L T G V
H Y H E A L E D W P
L S A T I S F I E D
W Z K Z S C U R A D
R E J O I C E F W B
O X G R W E E P O H
J N Q X R O N N E Y

Today we read about trusting God, the importance of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, and Jesus giving warnings as well as teaching His disciples about who is "blessed".

Grab you Bibles and let's go!

WORD SEARCH

In our gospel reading from Luke 6:17-26 we hear Jesus proclaim blessings and warnings. And it may surprise you who He says is blessed.

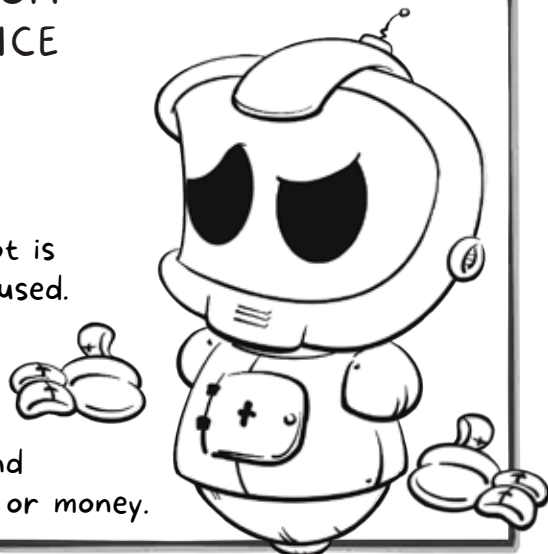
Read or listen to Luke 6:17-26 and then find the words from that passage in our word search.

- | | |
|-----------|--------|
| BLESSED | WOE |
| POOR | RICH |
| HUNGRY | FULL |
| SATISFIED | HEAR |
| WEEP | HEALED |
| LAUGH | |
| REJOICE | |

"Blessed are you..."

- Luke 6:20 (ESV)

Colour BB as he learns that we are blessed because of JESUS and not because of food, or money.





Kids Lectionary Learning 6TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,"

- Jeremiah 17:7 (ESV)

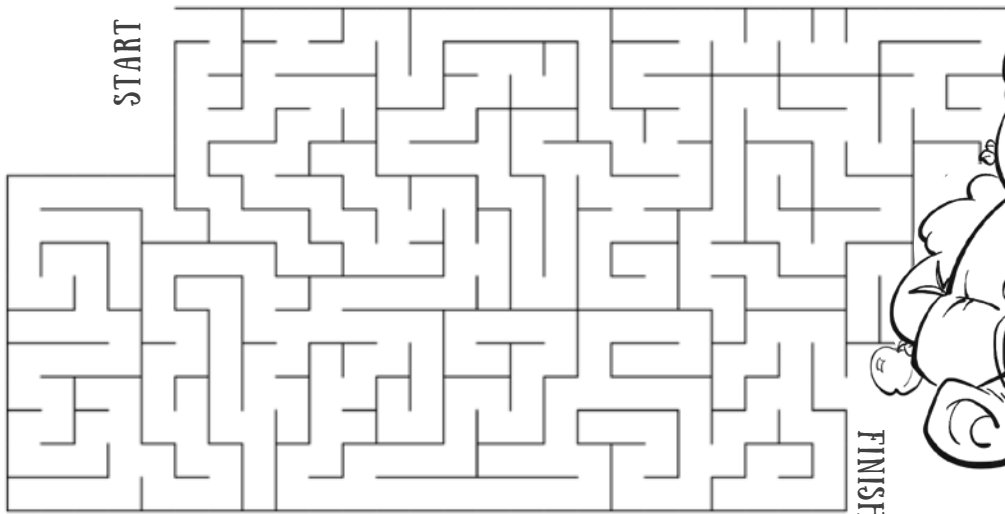


Kate and Hughie have found a shrub out in the dessert. In our first reading we hear Jeremiah talk about a shrub out in the dessert. What does he say is like being a shrub planted in the dessert?

Lil' Lou and Pete the pigeon are amazed at how well the tree by the water has grown. What does Jeremiah 17:7-8 say makes someone like a tree planted by water?

"like a shrub in the desert"

START



FINISH

Can you find the 9 apples that are hidden on this page?



"Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven"

- Luke 6:23 (ESV)

"like a tree planted by water"



Kids Lectionary Learning
7TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

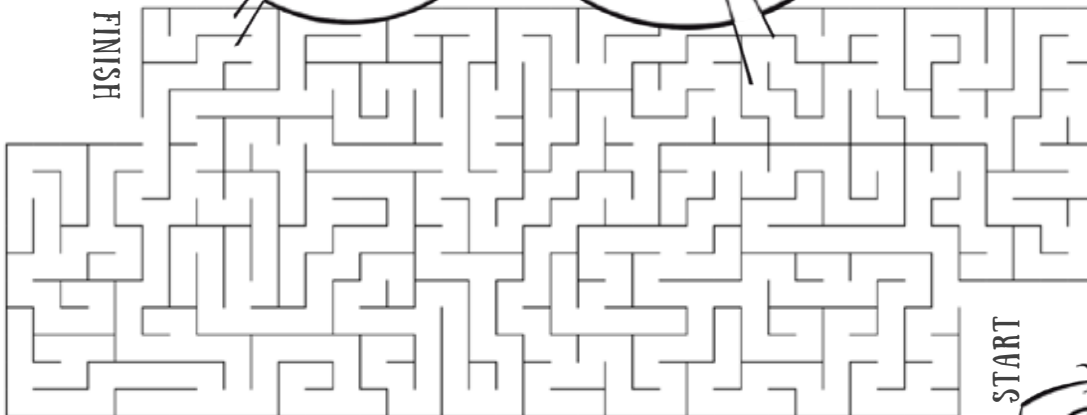
Bible Lessons
GENESIS 45:3-15
1 COR. 15:21-26,30-42
LUKE 6:27-38

"I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt."



And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life."

- Gen 45:4-5 (ESV)



"But I say to you who hear,
Love your enemies, do good to those
who hate you, bless those who curse
you, pray for those who abuse you."

- Luke 6:27-28 (ESV)



Lil' Lou is thinking about the amazing story of Joseph and his brothers. Can you colour the picture and finish the maze as we learn about Jesus and forgiveness.



Kids Lectionary Learning TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

And a voice came out of the cloud, saying,



"This is my Son, my Chosen One; listen to him!"
- Luke 9:35 (ESV)

Bible Lessons

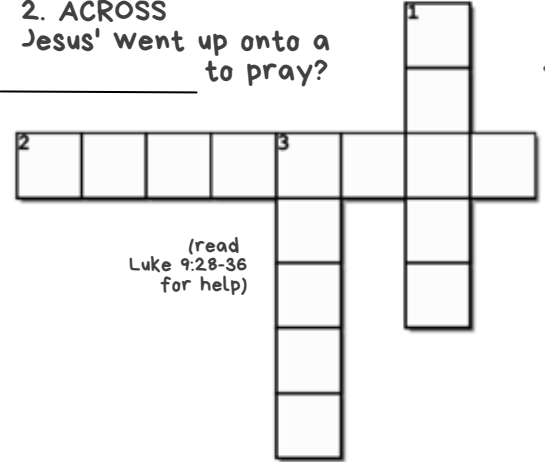
DEUT. 34:1-12
HEBREWS 3:1-6
LUKE 9:28-36

TRANSFIGURATION CROSSWORD

1. DOWN:
Jesus' clothes became
dazzling _____ ?

3. DOWN:
Peter wanted to make how
many tents?

2. ACROSS
Jesus' went up onto a
_____ to pray?



START



Today we learn and celebrate the
transfiguration of Jesus.

"For Jesus has been counted worthy
of more glory than Moses—as much
more glory as the builder of a house
has more honor than the house itself."

- Heb.3:3

Can you imagine what it
would have felt like to
see Jesus transfigured?
How did the
disciples feel?

Take a moment
to consider how the
disciples reacted and
then colour the
pictures on this page.

FINISH

