

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening

Week 8: In our scripture this week, we hear an extraordinary moment in Jesus' life on earth before he dies and rises to new life, never to die again.

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!' Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

Mark 7.32-37

Listen to him!

Peter wants to make dwellings for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. He wants to REMAIN in this holy time. He wants it to last. But the voice answers, "Listen to him!" Is this how to REMAIN in holy time? When we listen to the Word of God, like right now, do we build a dwelling for Jesus? What extraordinary things will we see?

Ages 6-9

The word for transfigure comes from a Greek word *metemorphōthē*, which makes us think of tadpoles metamorphosing into frogs. A tadpole has the potential to become a frog hidden within it. What potential does Jesus have hidden within him? We notice only for the 3 apostle see this moment of change. Why might they need to see Jesus' potential before he dies and rises?

Ages 9-12

Choose the reflective questions that suit your family:

We can imagine how Jesus looks—so full of light that his clothes dazzle. For a moment, we see him as he is now, so full of the Risen life of God he can never die again. When we are baptized, we receive the promise of the Risen life of God, too. We wear white, just like Jesus. For a moment, does everyone see us dazzle, too?

Ages 3-6

The transfiguration happens just as Jesus heads to Jerusalem for the last time. Soon he will die and all will seem lost. We all encounter these moments in our lives—times when all seems lost. We hear in this passage—for once—a very clear command from God. *Listen to Jesus.* How can we make this a practice so that when darkness comes, we look around and see only Jesus?

Teenagers

Read the scripture.

Ask questions.

Listen to each other's answers.

Then pray the prayer together on page 2.

Listen Prayer

One person leads and everyone else responds (R.)

Lord, our God,

We praise you for the wisdom of your will that unfolds all around us. We desire to enter more profoundly into this mystery, to root ourselves firmly in your will, to listen ever more deeply to you.

R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen closely to your Word—to the words on the page and the meaning they invoke, to the human author and to the divine, to the spaces between the letters where your Spirit dwells.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen attentively to Creation—to the voice of the earth, to the whispering of wind and waves, to the silence of the rocks and soil and swarms of voiceless creatures.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

Teach us to listen respectfully to the culture that surrounds us—to its wisdom and its folly, to the loud voices and the quiet, to that which can teach us and form us and expand our thinking.



R. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.

And teach us, Lord, to listen deeply to one another—to what we speak aloud and to what we leave unsaid, to our needs and to our concerns, to the love and the longing and desires of our hearts.

**R. We come before you.
We make ourselves still.
We listen to understand.
Amen.**

