

## Fifth Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration Sunday

**Moses, the Lawgiver and Elijah, the Prophet**

*Old Testament: Exodus 19:3-6* (NRSV, 1989)

<sup>3</sup>Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the Israelites: <sup>4</sup>You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup>Now therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup>but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.'

*New Testament: Luke 9:28-36* (NRSV, 1989)

The Transfiguration

<sup>28</sup>Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup>Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup>They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup>Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, 'Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah'—not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup>While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.

<sup>35</sup>Then from the cloud came a voice that said, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!'

<sup>36</sup>When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

**General Concept: Moses and Elijah representing the Law and the Prophets point to Jesus as the Messiah.**

*Key Concepts in the Different Age Levels in Sunday School*

N/K/YE: **Moses and Elijah prove that Jesus is the Messiah.**

ME/OE **Based on Moses' law and Elijah's prophecy, Jesus is affirmed as the Messiah.**

Y/A: **Moses and Elijah representing the Law and the Prophets point to Jesus as the Messiah.**

*Exegesis of the Biblical References*

The text is part of the whole wilderness journey experience of the Israelites after God freed them from slavery in Egypt. This is the third month of their journey in the wilderness traveling toward the promise land. After a long journey the Israelites reached the desert of Mt. Sinai and camped there while Moses went up to the mountain to meet God who called him. There, on top of the mountain Moses encountered God and received the instruction and God's plan to establish a covenant with them. But, God's covenant plan with Israel is conditional. It will require the people's decision to fully obey God and in return they will become God's chosen people, God's treasured possession. God's relationship with Israel is premised on a big "if": "If you obey my voice and keep my covenant", only then shall they be considered as God's special, treasured possession. Disobedience and rejection of God's

laws and instructions will only result in the negation of this relationship with its own disastrous consequences. God's covenant then with the Israelites is sealed and proclaimed to the people in the succeeding chapter through Moses who acted as the lawgiver. First, he presented to the people the 10 commandments - the basic instruction that will govern and guide the Israelites in their daily living as a community of God's liberated people. These laws along with the rest of the covenant laws are instructions and core teachings that will provide for the framework for the establishment of a truly liberated community, distinct and set apart from all the other nations that surround them. Their life as a community will be a witness, a sign of an alternative way of life that should be lived by a people liberated and set free by God for generations to come and throughout their history.

Like Moses, Jesus and his disciples encountered God in the mountain. But eight days prior to that experience there were a series of events in which Jesus displayed marvelous works of healing. It is then followed by the confession of Peter that Jesus is "The Christ of God." The transfiguration account of Jesus who was standing with Moses and Elijah witnessed by his disciples serves as the final revelation of Jesus' true identity as the messiah. This is then succeeded by Jesus teachings on the cost of following him.

The 10 commandments that Moses received in Mt. Sinai has become the guiding principle that both judges and uplifts the actions of the Jewish people. For centuries it has become the basis of the prophets like Elijah in proclaiming what is right and unacceptable in the eyes of God. All throughout the history of the Jews the law or the Torah served as the foundation on who will receive God's blessing and punishment. Moreover, the authority of the Torah continues to define who is righteous, who is cursed even until the time of Jesus.

The presence of Moses and Elijah in the transfiguration account symbolizes the convergence and unification of the authority of the law and the message of God in Jesus as the messiah. Jesus now becomes the authority and model of true righteousness and in him comes the message that brings people to God. However, the transfiguration account of Jesus should not be interpreted as Jesus departing from the old faith nor the authority of the Torah, instead it serves as a reminder to believers not to ignore the abiding authority and value of the Old Testament because Jesus himself was nurtured by the old faith. He was nurtured in the traditions of the Torah and the Torah continues to provide guidance and wisdom that the church needs even today in discerning the truth, what is right and wrong and knowing what is really acceptable to God.

Meanwhile, the gospel of Jesus presents a rather opposite view and interpretation from the Law of Moses. Contrary to the assumptions of the old faith, Jesus highlights faith or loyalty to the God who gave the Torah as the source of God's grace and salvation. Salvation, not even righteousness can be experienced in the literal obedience to the law. It still provides the basic principles by which an alternative community of freedom and justice may be established by the followers of Jesus. Jesus however liberates the people from the chains of the old faith and laws that has made people assume that they can gain favor from God through their strict observance and literal obedience to their provisions when in fact, they are supposed to be undertaken only as a matter of joyful and thankful response of the people for what God has already done for them.

The Transfiguration of Jesus depicts transformation in the presence of Moses and Elijah whose image fade while Jesus remained, a transition from the old, enslaving assumptions of the law towards the gospel of Jesus which now embodies the very essence and spirit of such law. With Jesus embodying in himself the fullness of the law as a gift of God's grace, the community of disciples can still continue establishing the kind of alternative community of freedom and love which had been envisioned and the very goal of the law itself.

*Companion Guide for the Teachers and Other Users*

In the Transfiguration, Jesus let some disciples see a preview of his resurrection. Of course, they would not understand but that occasion should help them prepare for his death and resurrection. The appearance of Moses and Elijah at Jesus' side and their subsequent disappearance leaving Jesus standing alone, symbolize the paradoxical nature of the Christian faith: it emerges from the womb of Judaism and at the same time opposed to it in a most fundamental way.

The Hebrew Bible was adopted and made part of the Christian Scriptures, referred to as the Old/Older Testament. The church affirmed that the gospel of Jesus Christ stood out from the Jewish ground. The Law and the Prophets constitute its pre-history, so to speak. But the faith of the Old Testament is more than pre-history. It continues to illumine and guide the church towards breaking new grounds for the understanding of the gospel. It also helps set the boundaries of interpretation that would keep the church from falling into errors that would taint the purity of the gospel. The old faith in which Jesus was nurtured has served and continues to serve the church as the gospel's midwife, nurse, mentor and critic, companion and guardian.

On the other hand and at the same time, the gospel of Jesus Christ stood out opposite the Jewish faith. It subverts the Law of Moses by positing God's grace through faith rather than compliance to the law that brings salvation. The burden of saving shifts radically from the sinner to God. It must be stated, though, that the essence of the gospel was already anticipated by the Old Testament, notably Hosea and Jeremiah. A case can be made that it was already there hidden somewhere in the Law but got lost in the complex labyrinth of legalistic interpretations. Nevertheless, the gospel of Jesus Christ cuts through what has become a solid wall that has kept people away from God. God's final word is, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" as Moses and Elijah fade away.

## Nursery/Kindergarten/Younger Elementary Levels

### I. Objectives

At the end of the session and with the consistent example shown by parents and other significant adults, the children will be able to:

1. identify Moses and Elijah;
2. describe Moses as the Lawgiver and Elijah as the prophet; and
3. explain that both Moses and Elijah point to Jesus as the Messiah.

### II. Concept: Moses and Elijah prove that Jesus is the Messiah.

**Materials:** *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), activity sheets, song chart, 3 plates with kalamansi, chocolate and bread, crayons, pencils

### III. Learning Experiences

#### A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Welcome the children warmly. Tap their shoulders as you bid “kumusta” or how are you.
2. Opening prayer: “Dear Jesus, thank you for this Sunday. Thank you for bringing us together to this Sunday school, to learn, to grow, to play and to make a craft in your name. Bless us with your presence, Amen.”
3. Opening songs: Greeting songs  
 “Rise And Shine”  
 Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory (thrice).  
 Children of the Lord  
 “He’s my Rock”  
 He’s my rock, my sword, my shield  
 He’s the mirror in the middle of the wind  
 He’s the lily of the valley, He’s the brightest shining star  
 I don’t care what people say, I got on my knees and pray  
 I’m gonna sing until my Jesus comes again.

#### B. Getting Ready

1. Prepare three plates. On the first plate, put a kalamansi, on the second plate, put a chocolate candy, and on the third plate, a piece of bread. Divide the class into three groups. Provide each group with any one of these plates. Tell each group to observe (look smell and taste) each object.
2. Tell each group to share their observations such as: The kalama is sour. It tis green. It is hard. The chocolate candy is sweet, The bread is soft, It tastes good)
3. Say: “You’re all right. You have described each object after you have seen, touched and tasted each.”

#### C. Learning Time

1. Say: “Let’s hear a story about Jesus. As we listen to it, we will know and describe the changes that happened to him.”
2. Tell the story.

### Jesus Transfigures

(Based on Luke 9:28-36)

Jesus goes up to the mountain to pray. Peter, John and James are with Jesus. When they reach the mountain top, the disciples sleep because they are tired.

As Jesus prays, his face changes and his clothes become dazzling white.

Jesus transfigures.

Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appear beside Jesus. Both Moses and Elijah have been long dead. They talk about Jesus' mission in Jerusalem to fulfill God's will.

Peter and the other disciples wake up to see what happens to Jesus. They see Jesus' glory and the two men who are standing with Him.

After talking to Jesus, the two men leave Him. Right away, Peter stands up and says to Jesus, "Oh Teacher, how good it is that we are here! We can build three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While Peter is still talking, a great cloud appears and covers with them. The disciples are afraid as the cloud comes over them. Then, they hear a voice from the cloud saying: "This is my Son, whom I have chosen. Listen to Him."

Then, there's silence. The place becomes clear. Jesus is all by himself.

When the disciples go down from the mountain, they did not tell to anyone in those days about what they had seen.

#### D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

Ask these questions.

##### For N/K

1. Who are the characters of the story? (Jesus, Peter, John, James, Moses, Elijah)
2. What happened when Jesus was praying on the mountain? Check the correct pictures.
  - a. The face of Jesus changed. His clothes became white.
  - b. Jesus cried.
3. Who appeared to Jesus? (Moses and Elijah)
4. What did they hear? ("This is my Son, whom I have chosen. Listen to Him.")

##### For YE

1. Who are the characters of the story? (Jesus, Peter, John, James, Moses, Elijah)
2. What happened when Jesus was praying on the mountain? Check the correct picture.
  - a. Jesus transfigured when his face changed and his clothes became white.
  - b. Jesus cried while he was praying alone.
3. Who appeared to Jesus? (Moses and Elijah)
4. What did they hear? ("This is my Son, whom I have chosen. Listen to Him.")
5. Who are Moses and Elijah? (Moses is the lawgiver. Elijah is a prophet.)
6. What did they talk to Jesus? (Jesus will soon fulfill God's purpose by dying in Jerusalem.)

*E. Discovering the Biblical Truth*

Ask: "Do you agree that Moses and Elijah prove that Jesus is the Messiah?"

*F. Applying the Biblical Truth*

1. Teach the memory verse: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" (Luke 9:35b)
2. Lead the class to realize that Moses and Elijah appeared to show that Jesus is about to fulfill his mission on earth. Then ask the children what they can do to show our thankfulness for Jesus who came to die for our sins.
3. **For N/K:** *Show and Tell.* Before this activity, help the pupils prepare shining hearts (heart-shaped silver foil with glitters), diamonds and circles. Let the class cover the picture of Jesus with shining hearts, the picture of Moses with diamonds and the picture of Elijah with circles.  
**For YE:** Tell the class to draw a garden scene with a big sun and write one way that they can shine for Jesus.

*G. Closing Worship*

1. Let the children recite the memory verse.
2. Offering
3. Closing song: "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam"
4. Closing prayer: "Father, we thank you that you came to us to love us. Help us to show love for you by doing what is right. Help us to shine for you. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen."

## Middle and Older Elementary Levels

### I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. identify Moses and Elijah;
2. describe Moses and Elijah during the Transfiguration; and
3. explain that both Moses and Elijah point to Jesus as the Messiah.

### II. Concept: Based on Moses' law and Elijah's prophecy, Jesus is affirmed as the Messiah.

**Materials:** *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), hymnal, blanket, song chart, crayons, pencils, coupon bond

### III. Learning Experiences

#### A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time: Welcome the children warmly. Tap their shoulders and encourage them to greet their classmates, too.
2. Opening prayer: "Dear Jesus, thank you for making us be in this class. Inspire us to read, sing, do our exercises, and relate with our classmates. This is our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen."
3. Opening song: "Be Thou My Vision" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 275)

#### B. Getting Ready

1. Prepare the class to play the game "Sharing the Responsibility". The objective of the game is for each member of the group to contribute to the task or responsibility of filling up the bottle with water by using a spoon. Divide the class into two or three teams. Provide each group a bottle and a spoon. They will fill the bottle in 3 minutes. The group with more water in the bottle receives 10 claps as their appreciation.
2. Process the activity. Ask these questions.
  - a. How did you feel sharing in the task of filling the bottle?
  - b. To the group that filled the bottle with more water, what made you accomplish the task given to you?
  - c. To the group that filled the bottle with more water, what made you delay your compliance of the task?
  - d. If everyone in the group is responsible and performs the tasks assigned, can we accomplish things easier and earlier? Can everyone become happy and satisfied?
4. Say: "Our lesson for today is about Moses, the lawgiver and Elijah, the prophet. These are the Bible characters who have done their responsibility to accomplish their task given to them."

#### C. Learning Time

1. Ask the class to read Luke 9:28-36.
2. Copy the pictures used in the N/K/YE lesson. Paste them separately on the blackboard. Put on the display board or flannel board a big mountain as the background.
3. Retell the story using a story map. As you tell the story (you may use the story presented in the N/K/YE level found on the workbook on pages 103 to 105), let the pupils paste the pictures on the display board or flannel board to complete the map.

*D. Deepening Activity/ Sharing Time*

Discuss the story. Ask these questions.

1. Where did Jesus and the disciples go? (On the mountain top) Why? (To pray)
2. What happened there? (While Jesus was praying, his clothes became white.)
3. Whom did the disciples see beside Jesus? (Moses and Elijah) Read each description and share your thoughts.

MOSES	ELIJAH
• Great leader	• Brave prophet
• The law-giver	• Anointing the king
• Married to the daughter of Jethro	• Trained Elisha
• Proved that Jesus is the Messiah	• Proved that Jesus is the messiah

4. What do you think Moses and Elijah talked about? (Jesus will soon fulfill God’s purpose for him to save people by dying at the cross in Jerusalem.)
5. What name means savior? (Messiah)
6. What did the voice from the cloud say about Jesus? (“This is my son whom I have chosen- listen to him.”)

*E. Discovering the Biblical Truth*

Ask: “Do you agree that based on the law given to Moses and the prophecy made by Elijah affirm that Jesus is the Messiah? Why or why not?”

*F. Applying the Biblical Truth*

1. Teach the memory verse: “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!.” (Luke 9:35b)
2. **For ME:** Creative work: Free-hand Drawing of Jesus or Crayon Etching. Tell the class to follow these instructions.
  - a. Color the whole bond paper with any bright color.
  - b. Color again all the surfaces with black or dark color
  - c. Draw a picture of Jesus using an empty ballpen or any pointed object
  - d. Write on the top of the bond paper: "As Moses and Elijah did, I will prove to others that Jesus is the Messiah."

**For ME/OE:** Before asking the class to perform the activity, tell the class that Jesus is called Christ because he is the Messiah. Ask the class to answer all the number sentences in the first, third, and fifth columns. Let them get the equivalent letters of their answers and write them in the second, fourth, and sixth columns.

Answer Key

Number and Letter Equivalent

<b>A</b> 1	<b>B</b> 2	<b>C</b> 3	<b>D</b> 4	<b>E</b> 5	<b>F</b> 6	<b>G</b> 7	<b>H</b> 8	<b>I</b> 9	<b>J</b> 10	<b>K</b> 11	<b>L</b> 12	<b>M</b> 13
<b>N</b> 14	<b>O</b> 15	<b>P</b> 16	<b>Q</b> 17	<b>R</b> 18	<b>S</b> 19	<b>T</b> 20	<b>U</b> 21	<b>V</b> 22	<b>W</b> 23	<b>X</b> 24	<b>Y</b> 25	<b>Z</b> 26

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## Exercise

Equation	Letter	Equation	Letter	Equation	Letter
$2 + 4 - 3 = 3$	(C)	$20 \div 2 + 3 = 13$	(M)	$20 \div 2 - 5 = 5$	(E)
$4 \times 2 = 8$	(H)	$25 + 5 \div 2 = 15$	(O)	$10 + 5 - 3 = 12$	(L)
$5 \times 4 - 2 = 18$	(R)	$30 \div 2 + 4 = 19$	(S)	$3 \times 2 + 3 = 9$	(I)
$18 \div 2 + 0 = 9$	(I)	$8 \div 2 + 1 = 5$	(E)	$4 \times 2 + 2 = 10$	(J)
$5 \times 5 - 6 = 19$	(S)	$20 + 10 - 11 = 19$	(S)	$1 \times 1 + 0 = 1$	(A)
$100 \div 5 = 20$	(T)	$40 \div 2 - 0 = 20$	(T)	$2 \times 2 + 4 = 8$	(H)
$4 + 1 \times = 20$	(T)	$2 + 4 + 2 = 8$	(H)	$50 \div 2 - 5 = 20$	(T)
$48 \div 6 = 8$	(H)	$3 + 1 + 1 = 5$	(E)	$5 \times 2 - 2 = 8$	(H)
$35 \div 7 = 5$	(E)	$3 \times 5 - 3 = 12$	(L)	$2 \times 2 + 1 = 5$	(E)
$30 - 4 \div 2 = 13$	(M)	$1 + 0 = 1$	(A)	$6 \times 2 + 4 = 16$	(P)
$11 + 4 \div 3 = 5$	(E)	$6 \times 4 - 1 = 23$	(W)	$7 \times 3 - 3 = 18$	(R)
$2 + 9 + 8 = 19$	(S)	$3 \times 3 + 1 = 7$	(G)	$7 \times 2 + 1 = 15$	(O)
$11 \times 2 - 3 = 19$	(S)	$50 \div 5 - 1 = 9$	(I)	$6 \times 2 + 4 = 16$	(P)
$72 \div 8 = 9$	(I)	$3 \times 5 + 7 = 22$	(V)	$6 - 3 + 5 = 8$	(H)
$2 \div 1 + 0 = 1$	(A)	$12 \div 2 - 1 = 5$	(E)	$4 \times 2 - 3 = 5$	(E)
$32 \div 4 = 8$	(H)	$5 \times 5 - 7 = 18$	(R)	$30 \div 2 + 5 = 20$	(T)

3. Then have them copy the letters to form the phrases.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
4. Discuss briefly that what Moses and Elijah did, they should do the same. They will prove to others that Jesus is the Messiah.
5. Additional work for **OE**. Present the following sentences. Tell the class to say them again using their own words.
  - a. Moses and Elijah affirmed that Jesus is the Messiah.
  - b. Jesus fulfilled the Law of God given to Moses.
  - c. Jesus fulfilled the Message of God's salvation to His given to Elijah.
  - d. We affirm that Jesus is the Messiah through our lives.

## G. Closing Worship

1. Tell the class to recite the memory verse.
2. Offering
3. Closing song: "God Tell It to The People" (Tune: "Go Tell It to the Mountains")
 

Go, tell it to the people,  
Malls and schools and everywhere  
Go, tell it to the people  
That Jesus Christ is Lord.  
Go, prove it to the people  
Life has changed from old to new  
Go, prove it to the people.  
That Jesus saved your life.
4. Closing prayer: "Dear God, thank you for your word. Thank you for Moses and Elijah who had been faithful to you to show to us that Jesus is sent by You to save the world. Help us too, to prove to others that Jesus is our Savior and Lord through our words and actions. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen."

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## Youth Level

### I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. retell the Transfiguration story of Jesus;
2. describe the disciples who witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus; and
3. explain the significance of the presence of Moses and Elijah during the transfiguration of Jesus.

### II. Concept: Moses and Elijah representing the Law and the Prophets point to Jesus as the Messiah.

**Materials:** *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), hymnal, activity sheet, crayons, pencils

### III. Learning Experiences

#### A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer
3. Opening song: "Be Thou My Vision" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 275)

#### B. Getting Ready

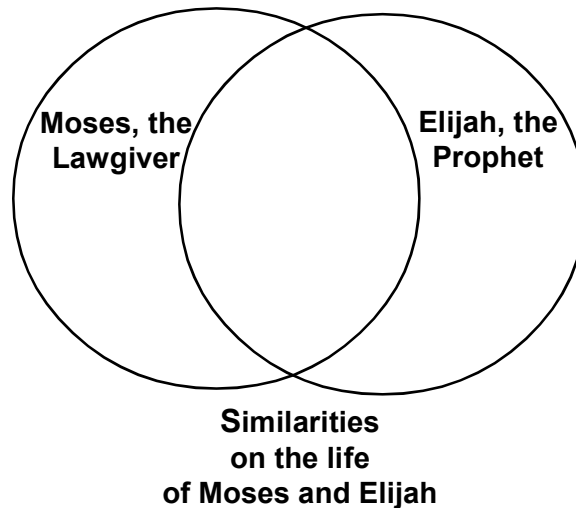
*Pre-test.* Prepare the following questions. Let the class answer these questions with true or false. Tell the class to set aside their work and be ready to put them out when asked by the teacher.

1. The Bible is a faithful witness to God. (true)
2. The meaning of transfiguration is transformation. (true)
3. Jesus took Peter, Simon, John to the hill to pray. (false)
4. Transfiguration is a preview of the resurrection of Jesus. (true)
5. The Jewish faith in which Jesus was nurtured has served and continues to serve the church as the gospel's companion and guardian. (true)
6. Jesus changed His appearance and his clothes became dazzling white in the transfiguration. (true)
7. Moses was the law-giver, married to Jethro's daughter and led the Israelites to freedom from slavery in Egypt. (true)
8. Elijah was a brave prophet, who anointed kings. (true)
9. Moses and Elijah being Old Testament characters have no connection to Jesus the Messiah. (false)
10. A voice said from the cloud "This is my Son, whom I have chosen- listen to him." (true)

#### C. Learning Time

1. Let the student read the biblical references silently Exodus 19:3-6 and Luke 9:28-36 using their own Bibles.
2. Ask them to read aloud in unison the verses again. Ask them what event in the OT text is similar in the NT text (Moses in the OT went up the mountain to pray while Jesus and some of his disciples went up to the mountaintop to pray.)
3. Start retelling the story. Then ask the students one by one to continue retelling the story until the part where they heard the voice from the cloud.

4. *Group work.* Divide the class into two groups. Instruct them to do research. Tell the first group to describe Moses and the second group, Elijah. Encourage them to add more information using other texts from the Old Testament. Have one group work on Moses and the other group work on Elijah.
5. *Class work.* Let the students use their research work and fill up the Venn diagram. Let them share what they know about each character by filling up the differences and similarities on the life of Moses and Elijah.



#### D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time

1. Discuss the lesson. Ask these questions.
  - a. Who were the characters of the story? (Jesus, Peter, John, James)
  - b. Where did Jesus and the disciples go to pray? (on the hill)
  - c. What happened when they were at the hill?  
(Moses and Elijah appeared)
  - d. What did Moses and Elijah talk about? (Jesus soon to fulfill God's purpose by dying in Jerusalem)
  - e. What did the voice from the cloud said? (this is my son whom I have chosen-listen to him.)
2. Tell the class to put out their pre-tests. Call selected students and tell them to explain all their false answers by citing the story and other information that they have gathered.
3. *Processing of previous activity* Say: "The law was given to Moses while Elijah was one of God's great prophets performing great miracles and proclaiming to Israel their need to repent and return to God. Jesus is the fulfillment of the law given to Moses in the Old Testament. He is also the fulfillment of the prophets calling people to return to God and worship Him alone. Our memory verse reminds us to listen to Jesus, the son God sent, that we might understand how the law and the prophets are fulfilled in Him."

#### E. Discovering the Biblical Truth

Ask: "What is Moses famous for? What is Elijah famous for? Why do you think it was Moses and Elijah who appeared at Jesus' transfiguration?"

*F. Applying the Biblical Truth*

1. Teach the memory verse: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" (Luke 9:35b)
2. Tell the students to complete the following open-ended phrases and explain their answers before the class.
  - a. I decide to follow Moses and Elijah through:  
(Share a way you can follow Moses or Elijah's example.)
  - b. I believe the resurrection of Jesus so I will so I will be an agent of transformation by:  
(Share a way you can be an agent of transformation this week)
  - c. I believe the presence of Moses and Elijah in the transfiguration of Jesus point to Jesus as the Messiah. I can share that to others by:  
(Share a way you can share Jesus as the fulfillment of the law and the prophets)

*G. Closing Worship*

1. Offering
2. Closing song: "Be Thou My Vision" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 275)
3. Closing prayer

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## Adult Level

### I. Objectives

At the end of the session, the learners are expected to:

1. relate the transfiguration story about the resurrection of Jesus;
2. describe the significance of the words of affirmation of the Sonship of Jesus by God and the disappearance of Moses and Elijah; and
3. explain how the transfiguration story points to Jesus as the Messiah.

### II. Concept: Moses and Elijah representing the Law and the Prophets point to Jesus as the Messiah.

**Materials:** *The Holy Bible* (NRSV, 1989), hymnal, activity sheet

### III. Learning Experiences

#### A. Opening Worship

1. Welcome time
2. Opening prayer
3. Opening song: "Be Thou My Vision" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 275)

#### B. Getting Ready

1. Ask the class to recall an advertisement showing how dirty clothes are made clean and white using the advertized soap.
2. Have the children compare their dirty and clean clothes. Discuss the role of the soap in changing clothes from dirty to clean.

#### C. Learning Time

After reading the biblical references, discuss the significance of these texts in relation to Jesus' transfiguration.

1. *Exodus 19:3-6*. These verses tell what God told Moses when he was on the mountain:
  - a. God reminds Israel what He has done to the Egyptians who pursued them and how He took the Israelites to Himself
  - b. God reminds Israel that if they obey His commands and honor His Covenant with them, they will be His prized possession.
2. *Luke 9:28-36*. The story of Jesus' transfiguration and its significance
  - a. Jesus went up the mountain top to pray. His disciples Peter, James, and John were with him.
  - b. The disciples witnessed thee events.
    - 1) The glory of Jesus when his appearance changed as he shone and his clothes became dazzling white
    - 2) The appearance of Moses, the Lawgiver and Elijah, the Prophet and the significance of their conversation with Jesus

"The Lukan reading picks up the story of the transfiguration story of Jesus and as Moses was the mediator in the past, it is now Jesus who brings the revelation of God. Both Moses and Elijah are present and speak with him as his face becomes radiant from being in the presence of God"  
(Commentary, Background, Insights from Literary Structure, Theological Message, Ways to Present the Text. Anna Grant-Henderson, Uniting Church in Australia).

3. Say: "As members of the Church, the Body of Christ, we should show Christ's character and will in all the ministries that we do, become dependent solely on Him, and recognize that all our efforts would be in vain unless it is our heart that we give to Him in service."

*D. Deepening Activity/Sharing Time*

Discuss the lesson and ask these questions.

1. What happened to Jesus while was praying? (Jesus transfigured.)
2. When we are in the presence of God, can our faces can radiate God's holiness? Why or why not?
3. When the disciples realized that Jesus is the Son of God, how did this recognition of the light of God help them in their work as Jesus' disciples?
4. How can we relate the transfiguration of Jesus with his resurrection?

*E. Discovering the Biblical Truth*

Ask: "How did the Law of Moses and the prophecy of Elijah point to Jesus as the Messiah?"

*F. Applying the Biblical Truth ,*

Tell the students to make a plan of manifesting God's righteousness in the their homes, places of work, and in the communities where they belong.

*G. Closing Worship*

1. Offering
2. Closing song: "Be Thou My Vision" (Hymnal of a Faith Journey # 275)
3. Closing prayer