

Lesson 27: THE LORD IS TRANSFIGURED
Matthew 17:1-13

INTRODUCTION:

When the Lord was on earth, His twelve disciples were the people who spent the most time with Him. Day after day they saw the amazing things He could do, heard the amazing things that He said. But did the disciples really realize who the Lord was? Did they realize that He was actually the God of the universe, come down to earth? (No!)

Even the disciples, though they loved the Lord and knew that He was very special and important, did not realize that He was God. To their eyes, the Lord looked like an ordinary man, even though His words were like nothing they had ever heard before.

Today we will read about the time that Jesus took three of His disciples up onto a high mountain, and showed them a glimpse of His true heavenly glory.

READING:

Now have the children take turns reading aloud from **Matthew 17: 1-13**, (or have them follow along while you read it aloud.)

DISCUSSION:

Who were the three disciples that the Lord showed this vision to? (Peter, James, and John.) Several times, Peter, James, and John got to go somewhere special with the Lord, where the other disciples did not get to go. That was because they represented special things in our minds – real love, belief in God, and a wanting to do good things. It is to these special parts of our minds that the Lord can show His truer Self.

Where did Jesus take these three, to show them His glory? (Up on a high mountain.) This represented how the Lord needs to bring us into a higher part of our mind to show Himself to us – a part of our mind that cares more about love and heavenly things than worldly or selfish things.

Once up on this mountain, how did the Lord appear to Peter, James, and John? (His face shone as the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.)

Who else appeared, beside the Lord? (Moses and Elijah) Moses and Elijah had lived on earth long before the disciples, and were now living in heaven. A vision of Moses and Elijah appeared next to the Lord, because they represented two parts of the Word, and the Lord was showing that He is the one who shines out of the Word. The whole Word is teaching people about Him!

What did Peter say, when he saw this vision? (He suggested that they make three tabernacles; one for Jesus, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.) Peter was confused, not understanding the

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vision. Perhaps he thought that the vision was showing Jesus to be a great prophet, like Moses and Elijah.

Then a voice came out of a bright cloud, and what did it say? (“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”) Whose voice was that? (The Lord’s!)

It was the voice from His Divine Soul, telling the disciples how important it was for them to listen to the things He had come on earth to tell them.

When the voice spoke, what did the disciples do? (They were afraid, and fell down on their faces to the ground.)

And what did Jesus do? (He touched them, and told them not to be afraid.) The Lord always reaches out a comforting hand when someone is afraid.

After the vision, the disciples asked why prophets had always said that Elijah would come first, before the promised Savior. The Lord told them that Elijah had already come, but that people had not known him, and had treated him badly. The disciples thought that He meant John the Baptist, but the Lord really meant the Word, because the Word had been written before His coming, to teach people and prepare the way, but people had not listened to the Word.

So know that sometimes, when the idea of the Lord and things from the Word seem ordinary or boring, the truth is that they are both filled with an amazing breathtaking glory -- just like Jesus, who looked like an ordinary man, was in reality our shining and glorious God. And you will see that in your life, when you let the Lord show you in the heavenly parts of your mind.

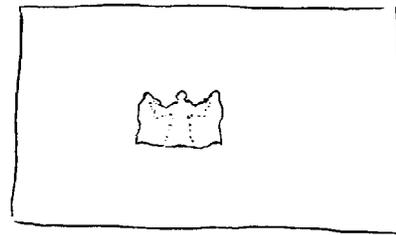
PROJECT: Chalk Picture
THE LORD IS TRANSFIGURED

Supplies:

Sheets of white 11" x 17" paper, two for each child
Gray paper, or some other drab color
Art chalk in many colors
Scissors for each child
A roll of paper towels
Glue
Newspaper
Clear acrylic or fixative spray

Ahead of Time:

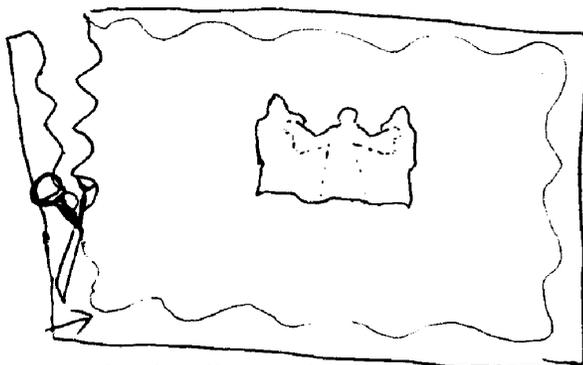
Teacher trace the pattern of the Lord with Moses and Elijah onto one white sheet of paper for each child, like so:



(see pattern pieces)

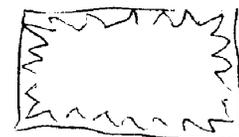
Procedure:

1. Spread out newspaper to cover the surface on which the children are working.
2. Have them each lay down a blank white 11.5" by 17.5" sheet of paper in front of them.
3. Give them each a sheet onto which you have traced the shape of the Lord with Moses and Elijah.
4. Tell them that they will be gradually cutting closer and closer to the figures, to make many borders, one inside another, to be the brilliant light coming from this vision. Show them how to make a first cut around the edge of the paper, an inch or two in from the edge, something like this:



Cut a PATTERNED border all around.

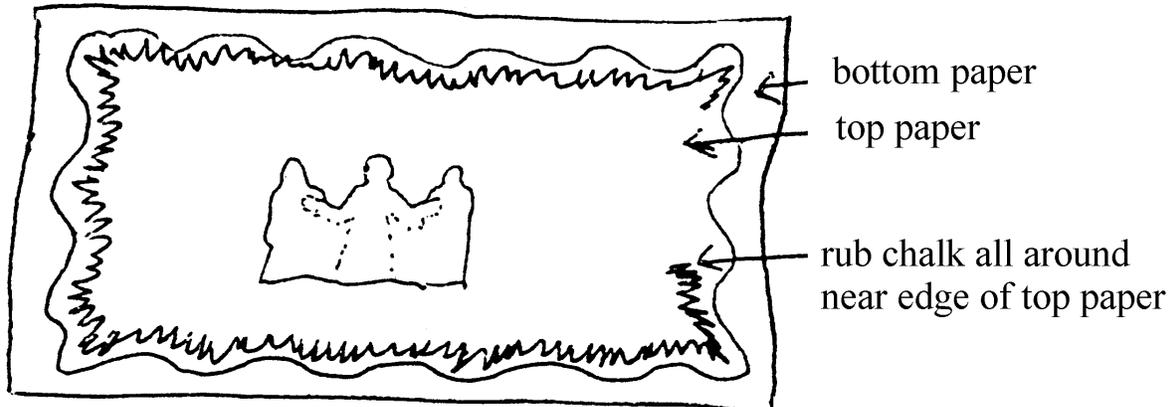
Border can be a wavy line, as shown, or more jagged, to look more like light rays:



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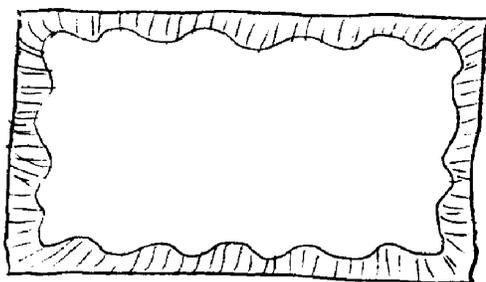
5. Once they've cut away the edge of the paper in this manner, have them lay this page down on top of the blank sheet that is lying in front of them, centering it so there is an edge all around.

6. Have them choose a piece of chalk (it is best to start with darker colors, and then move to the lighter ones later.) Have them rub chalk near the outer edge of the top piece of paper, all the way around.

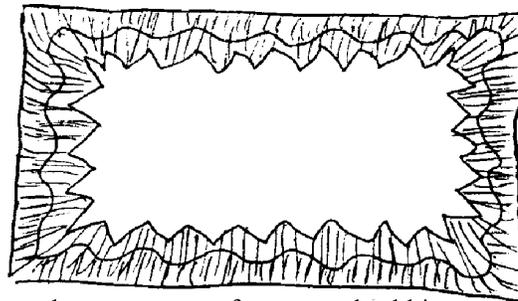


7. Now have them each take a paper towel and, holding the papers steady, wipe the color from the top paper onto the exposed part of the bottom paper, wiping right onto the newspaper to create a "rays of light" effect. When they finish doing this all the way around, they can lift the top paper and see the beautiful first border they have made.

8. Next, have them cut away another border on the top sheet of paper, again about an inch or two *in*, and repeat the process by again laying it down centered onto the bottom sheet, rubbing a *new* chalk color around the edge, wiping it *right over* the first color, and lifting to see the results.



bottom paper after first rubbing



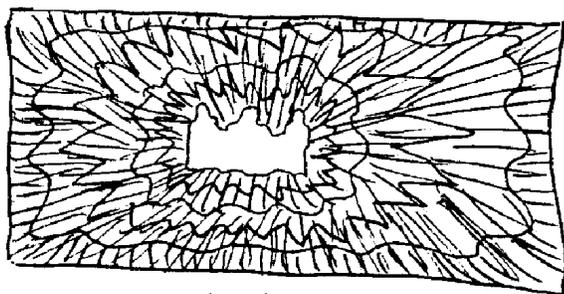
bottom paper after second rubbing

Each layer will have a new color.

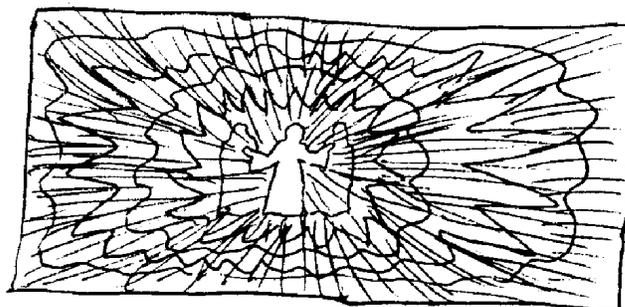
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9. Have them keep repeating this until they are cutting around the solid line that surrounds the three figures of the Lord, Moses, and Elijah. Use this shape to perform the same process as they have been doing.

10. Finally, they will cut along the dotted lines so that they are holding only the figure of the Lord. Have them lay that figure at the center of the picture, rub a light color close to its edges (preferably yellow) and rub the color outward, onto the figures of Moses and Elijah and beyond. When they lift up this final pattern, they will have left at the center a pure white figure of the Lord.



second-to-last step



final step
(now disciples can be glued near bottom)

11. After all this is complete, they can trace and cut figures of the three disciples out of gray paper and glue them near the bottom of the picture, looking up at the vision.

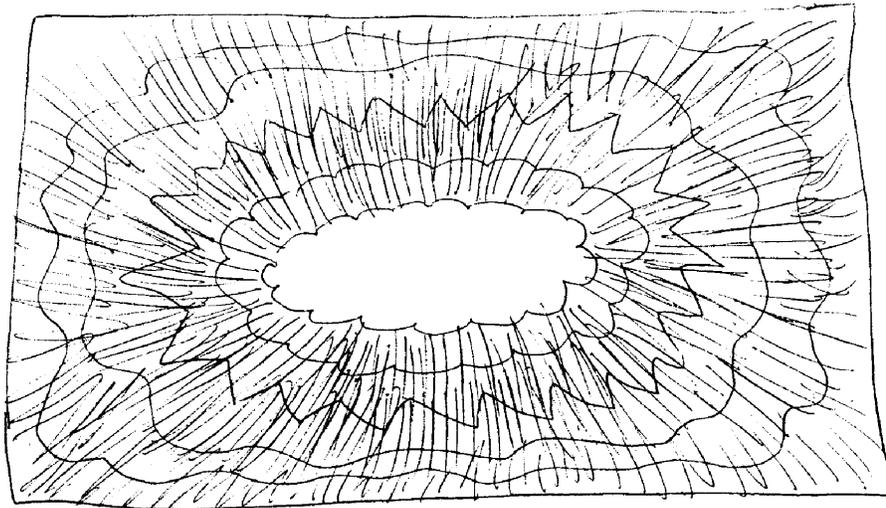
12. When each child is finished, take his or her picture outdoors and coat it lightly with the fixative spray. This dries in just a few minutes, and it will keep the chalk from rubbing off onto anything that touches it.

(See next page for a simpler version of this project)

Alternate Version of Transfiguration Project
(Simpler Cutting)

Follow the steps given previously, substituting a pattern page that has a cloud shape in the center instead of the Lord. Use the same cutting and coloring methods, and end up with a cloud shape in the center, to represent the “bright cloud” that appeared during the Lord’s transfiguration.

Something like this:



Then students can do choose one of the following options.

Optional:

First spray with fixative so the chalk doesn’t get all over the child’s arm as he/she writes.

Then, they can write in the words that came from the bright clouds in a gold pen.

Then can write any of these following options right on the cloud in the center:

“This is my beloved son....”

or

“This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased.”

or

“This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased. Hear him.”

Project Patterns

