# Celebrating Transfiguration Sunday in the Sunday School

The final Sunday following Epiphany, and before Lent, is Transfiguration Sunday. The liturgical colour again changes to white, signifying light, holiness, and celebration.

All three of the synoptic gospels tell a story of Peter, James, and John accompanying Jesus to the top of a holy mountain. There, before their eyes, Jesus is transfigured or transformed into a dazzling brightness. Beside him appear Moses and Elijah, two historic figures of the faith. Peter thinks they should build some shelters and stay in this holy moment forever. Then, as at Jesus’ baptism, a cloud appears and a voice declares: “This is my son, the Beloved. Listen to him.”

This story can be difficult to explain and to understand, although we all long for those powerful, life-changing, mountaintop experiences that help us to see and experience Christ in new ways.

## Make a Two-Way Picture

Children can work on this project individually, in pairs, or as a group. On two identical square sheets of 6" x 6" (15 cm x 15 cm) drawing paper, have the children draw two pictures symbolizing the Transfiguration experience. For example, one could be Jesus and the disciples climbing the mountain and the other Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. Or one could represent Jesus before the Transfiguration and the other the moment of illumination.

After the pictures are completed, draw vertical lines half an inch (1 cm) apart on the back of each sheet and cut along those lines, being sure to keep the strips in the proper order.

On a 6' x 12' (15 cm x 30 cm) piece of construction paper, draw lines ½ inch (1 cm) apart and 6 inches (15 cm) long. Fold the paper, accordion-style, along those lines.

Next, glue the picture strips along the folds of the construction paper “accordion,” alternating pieces of both pictures.

Finished pictures can be mounted with tape to another piece of construction paper or to Bristol board.

Look at the pictures from one angle and then the other to see the changes. Talk with the children about how the disciples viewed Jesus differently when they came down from the mountain from when they had viewed him on the trip up. Wonder with the children about different ways they experience Christ in their lives or see the love of God changing the world.