

WEEK 15: MARK 9 - THE GLORY OF THE KINGDOM REVEALED; THE RESPONSE OF THIS WORLD

HIGH SCHOOL

GOAL

To develop a better understanding of Mark 9

LESSON

Materials Needed: Orthodox Study Bible

Extended Learning Opportunities:

The Explanation by Blessed Theophylact of the Holy Gospel According to St. Mark pages 72-81

The Gospel of Mark the Suffering Servant by Fr. Lawrence Farley pages 133-156

Explanation of the Transfiguration and Icon - <https://www.goarch.org/transfiguration>

GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 9

Read verses 1-8 and then discuss the icon of the Transfiguration:

Jesus takes Peter, James, and John with Him to the top of a mountain. Saint Mark does not specifically tell us which mountain they climbed, but tradition holds that it was Mt. Tabor. (*Look for the mountain on your map. It is west of the Sea of Galilee.*)

While on the mountain, Jesus shows Himself to Peter, James, and John in all of His brilliant radiance as the Uncreated Light. Saint Mark attempts to describe the event to us as best as he can with words.

The three disciples see Moses and Elijah talking to Jesus as well. We read a couple of weeks ago about Jesus asking His disciples who people thought He was and they answered - St. John the Baptist, Elijah, or one of the prophets. The three of them see Elijah and Moses (one of the great prophets and law giver) talking with Jesus. Therefore, Jesus cannot be one of the prophets. Then Elijah and Moses suddenly disappear, "a cloud came and over-shadowed them", and the voice of God tells the disciples to focus all of their attention on Jesus alone. In this moment, the Holy Trinity is manifested (Jesus, the Holy Spirit in the cloud, and the voice of God). Additionally, the two natures of Christ - fully divine and fully human - are tangibly visible to these three disciples on Mt. Tabor.

Take a look at the icon provided of the Transfiguration. This is one of the major feast days of the Orthodox Church and celebrated on August 6th. Our knowledge of the Bible helps us to understand our icons.

Surrounding Jesus in this icon is a mandorla, which illustrates the brightness and radiance of the Uncreated Light being seen by Peter, James, and John on Mt. Tabor. On either side of Jesus is Elijah (left) and Moses (right). Both Elijah and Moses are bowing towards Christ with their hands raised in prayer.

St. Theophylact explains two reasons why Elijah and Moses are seen at the Transfiguration with Jesus. 1) Many people had thought Jesus was Elijah or one of the other prophets and here two of the great prophets are seen with Him. The Old Testament was always been pointing towards Jesus and both Elijah and Moses are reverently talking to Jesus, the Messiah. 2) There were people who said that Jesus was not following the law. Both Elijah and Moses had experienced visions of God and neither of them would be talking with Jesus if He had done something wrong. Elijah represents all the prophets and Moses represents the law.

The three shafts of light directed towards the disciples, represents the manifestation of the Holy Trinity at the Transfiguration. (We cannot visually represent the voice of God in an icon. Therefore we are reminded of what we are told about this event in the gospels.)

On the bottom left of the icon is James. On the bottom middle is John, who wrote the Gospel of John. On the bottom right is Peter. All three of them are shown on the ground in a state of shock and fear, showing the enormous impact this moment had on the three of them.

Verses 9-13:

Jesus had told Peter, James, and John not to tell anyone what they had experienced up on the mountain until after His resurrection. On their way back to the others, the three of them were talking amongst themselves about what they had just experienced.

Verses 14-18:

The Pharisees were questioning the nine disciples that had not gone up on the mountain with Jesus while He was gone with Peter, James, and John. The Pharisees were

trying to turn these disciples away from Jesus.

Verses 19-29:

A man amongst the crowd tells Jesus that His disciples (the nine who did not go up the mountain) could not heal his son. Jesus explains that it was because of his lack of faith that the boy was not healed. Then Jesus tells them to bring the boy to Him and mercifully heals the man's son after the man begs Jesus to "help my unbelief!"

Afterwards, the disciples privately ask Jesus why they could not heal the boy. Jesus tells them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

St. Theophylact explains, "The evil spirits are called unclean because they wickedly take pleasure in every kind of shameful deed. Moreover, the demon considers his departure from the man to be his own destruction; for the demons are without pity and believe they suffer ill if they are not permitted to do evil to men. Also, because they love the flesh and are accustomed to feeding upon carnal vapors, they are starved when they do not dwell within a body. This is why the Lord says that the demons come out of a man by fasting." (page 19) True prayer is offered when connected to fasting.

REVIEW:

- We celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration every year on August 6th. It is one of the twelve major feast days of the Orthodox Church. What happened at the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor?
- Why were the disciples not able to cast out the demon from the man's son?
- Why is fasting so important? What should we always do along side of fasting?



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MIDDLE SCHOOL

GOAL

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St. Theophylact explains two reasons why Elijah and Moses are seen at the Transfiguration with Jesus. 1) Many people had thought Jesus was Elijah or one of the other prophets and here two of the great prophets are seen with Him. The Old Testament was always been pointing towards Jesus and both Elijah and Moses are reverently talking to Jesus, the Messiah. 2) There were people who said that Jesus was not following the law. Both Elijah and Moses had experienced visions of God and neither of them would be talking with Jesus if He had done something wrong. Elijah represents all the prophets and Moses represents the law.

The three shafts of light directed towards the disciples, represents the manifestation of the Holy Trinity at the Transfiguration. (We cannot visually represent the voice of God in an icon. Therefore we are reminded of what we are told about this event in the gospels.)

On the bottom left of the icon is James. On the bottom middle is John, who wrote the Gospel of John. On the bottom right is Peter. All three of them are shown on the ground in a state of shock and fear, showing the enormous impact this moment had on the three of them.

REVIEW:

- We celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration every year on August 6th. It is one of the twelve major feast days of the Orthodox Church. What happened at the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor?



WEEK 15: MARK 9 - THE GLORY OF THE KINGDOM REVEALED; THE RESPONSE OF THIS WORLD

3RD - 4TH GRADE

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REVIEW:

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WEEK 15: MARK 9 - THE GLORY OF THE KINGDOM REVEALED; THE RESPONSE OF THIS WORLD

1ST - 2ND GRADE

GOAL

To develop a better understanding of Mark 9

LESSON

Materials Needed: Orthodox Children's Bible Reader

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GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 9

New Vocabulary Word: Transfiguration - It means that God showed us that Jesus is the Son of God.

Ask your students to say, "Transfiguration." If they have a hard time saying it, ask them to repeat after you syllable by syllable and then try putting all the syllables together at once.

Read story on page 219 of the Orthodox Children's Bible Reader

Explain to your students that we remember this event every single year on August 6th. It is one of our major feast days and is called - The Transfiguration or The Transfiguration of Our Lord.

Explain the icon of the Transfiguration to your students on page 218:

Did any of you go outside with special glasses to see the eclipse of the sun a few years ago? Why did we have to wear special glasses while watching the eclipse? If you didn't see the eclipse, can we go outside right now and look at the sun? No! If we look directly at the sun, it is so bright that it would hurt our eyes. Peter, James, and John couldn't look at

Jesus either when He was brightly shining as the Son of God. It hurt their eyes and they had to turn away! They are at the bottom of the icon. All three of them are struggling to look at Jesus and are afraid because this is not like anything they've ever experienced before. Jesus is in the top, middle of the icon because He is important! He is the Son of God! Elijah and Moses are on either side of Jesus. They are prophets from the Old Testament.

REVIEW:

What did Peter, James, and John see when they went up on the mountain with Jesus?

WEEK 15: MARK 9 - THE GLORY OF THE KINGDOM REVEALED; THE RESPONSE OF THIS WORLD

PRE-K - KINDERGARTEN

GOAL

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GOSPEL OF MARK - CHAPTER 9

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Explain to your students that we remember this event every single year on August 6th. It is one of our major feast days and is called - The Transfiguration or The Transfiguration of Our Lord.

Explain the icon of the Transfiguration to your students on page 218:

Can we go outside and look at the sun? No! If we look directly at the sun, it is so bright that it would permanently hurt our eyes. Peter, James, and John couldn't look at Jesus either when He was brightly shining as the Son of God. It hurt their eyes and they had to turn away! They are at the bottom of the icon. All three of them are struggling to look at Jesus and are afraid because this is not like anything they've ever experienced before. Jesus is in the top, middle of the icon because He is important! He is the Son of God! Elijah and Moses are on either side of Jesus. They are prophets from the Old Testament.

REVIEW:

What did Peter, James, and John see when they went up on the mountain with Jesus?