

WEEK 16: TRANSFIGURATION

HIGH SCHOOL

GOALS

The Transfiguration is one of our major feast days.
To read the gospel along side of the icon of the Transfiguration

LESSON

Materials Needed: Bible, Map of the Holy Land

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pgs 228-237

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew by Blessed Theophylact, pgs 145-152

Search the Scriptures Live: Series of podcasts on Matthew -

<https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescriptureslive>

Transfiguration of Our Lord - GOARCH <https://www.goarch.org/transfiguration>

JESUS TRANSFIGURED ON THE MOUNT

Read Matthew 17:1-13

Every day of the year, we are commemorating saints and/or an event of the Church. When we celebrate major feast days, we are proclaiming that this event was a big deal! There are twelve major feast days, plus Pascha - which is the feast of feasts!

12 Major Feast Days:

- **Nativity of the Theotokos:** September 8th
- **Elevation of the Holy Cross:** September 14th
- **Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple:** November 21st
- **Nativity of Christ:** December 25th
- **Theophany:** January 6th
- **Presentation of Christ into the Temple:** February 2nd
- **The Annunciation:** March 25th
- **Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday):** Sunday before Pascha

-
- **The Ascension:** 40 days after Pascha
 - **Pentecost:** 50 days after Pascha
 - **The Transfiguration:** August 6th
 - **The Dormition:** August 15th

Feast of Feasts!

- **Pascha:** Moveable Date

While discussing the following verses, show the icon of the Transfiguration -

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother,

Peter, James and John were the inner circle of the disciples.

led them up on a high mountain by themselves;

(You can see them walking up the mountain on the left side of the icon.) We know through Holy Tradition that this mountain is Mount Tabor in Israel. Look on your maps. Mt. Tabor is located to the east of Nazareth and to the west of the Sea of Galilee.

Optional:

- YouTube: *Mount Tavor (Tabor) Israel Video Tour* https://youtu.be/AD0CMxT_TJk
- YouTube (some drone footage): *Jezreel Valley, Mount Tabor, Israel* <https://youtu.be/lj-XmuOZu3U>
- YouTube: *Transfiguration Monastery, Mount Tabor* https://youtu.be/3_acLyRPJ78

and He was transfigured before them.

Transfigured means to change in outward appearance.

His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.

Those who were waiting for the Messiah, expected an impressive king. They were confused when they saw an ordinary man who healed people miraculously. Jesus' glory was veiled to most (now Peter, James, and John saw Him transfigured), but the demons always knew of Jesus' glory.

And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

"Behold" - is used as a way of saying something great or surprising is about to take place. Moses (right side of the icon) and Elijah (left side of the icon) were present representing the living and the dead, as well as, the Law and the prophets - the Old Testament.

Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

The voice is God the Father.

And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid."

We see Peter (left), John (middle), and James (right) at the bottom of the icon of the Transfiguration. They look surprised, shaken, and falling to the ground. Understandably, they are trying to process what they are experiencing.

When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

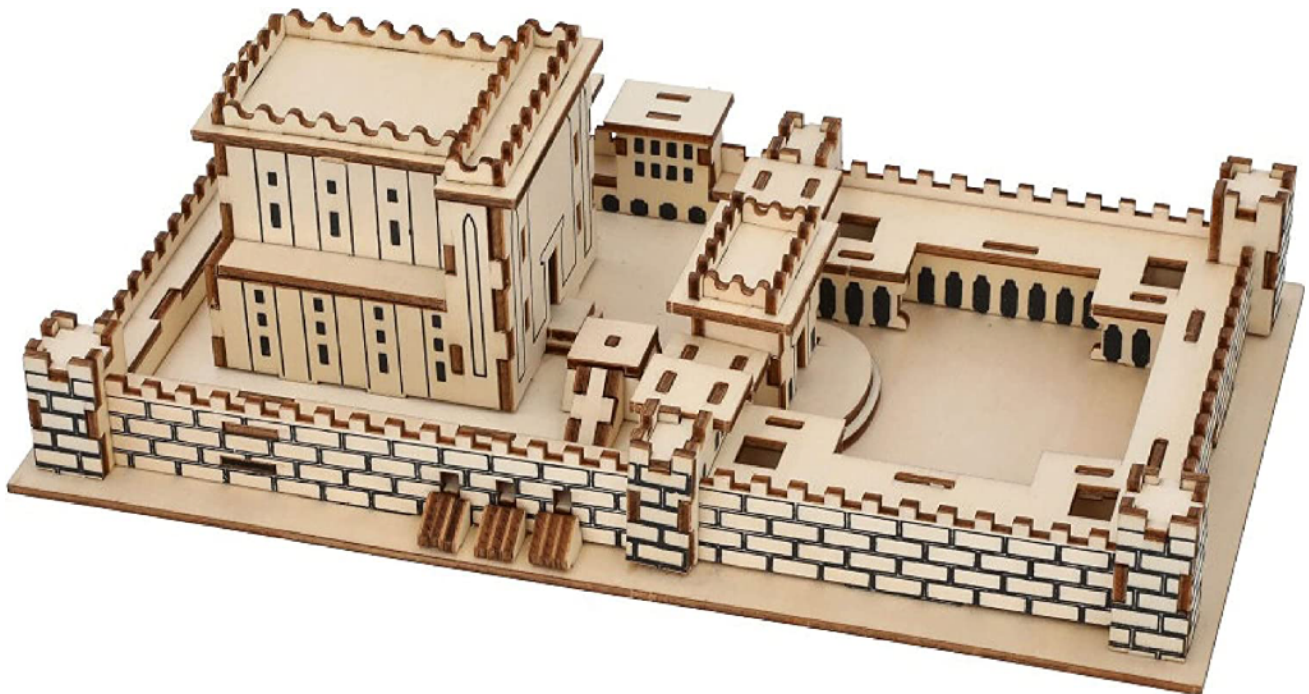
Moses and Elijah vanish because the Old Testament made way for the New. Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of the Old Testament. There was some uncertainty as to exactly what Jesus meant when He said to, "tell no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead." The resurrection from the dead was going to happen at the end of time, when God judged each person. Were they supposed to never tell anyone about this event? They didn't realize it would only be a short time until Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. (You can see Jesus, Peter, James, and John walking down the mountain on the right side of the icon.)

Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first? Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

The disciples realized that Jesus was explaining that John the Baptist was Elijah to this generation.

OPTIONAL: JEWISH TEMPLE MODEL

If time allows, spend the last 5-10 minutes of class working on assembling the Jewish Temple model. This activity is intended to take more than one Sunday to complete. This is an opportunity for the kids to have a hands-on project, as well as a visual-aid, as we move forward and discuss the Jewish Temple within our future lessons.





WEEK 16: TRANSFIGURATION

MIDDLE SCHOOL

GOALS

The Transfiguration is one of our major feast days.
To read the gospel along side of the icon of the Transfiguration

LESSON

Materials Needed: Bible, Map of the Holy Land

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pgs 228-237

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew by Blessed Theophylact, pgs 145-152

Search the Scriptures Live: Series of podcasts on Matthew -

<https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescriptureslive>

Transfiguration of Our Lord - GOARCH <https://www.goarch.org/transfiguration>

JESUS TRANSFIGURED ON THE MOUNT

Every day of the year, we are commemorating saints and/or an event of the Church. When we celebrate major feast days, we are proclaiming that this event was a big deal! There are twelve major feast days, plus Pascha - which is the feast of feasts!

12 Major Feast Days:

- **Nativity of the Theotokos:** September 8th
- **Elevation of the Holy Cross:** September 14th
- **Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple:** November 21st
- **Nativity of Christ:** December 25th
- **Theophany:** January 6th
- **Presentation of Christ into the Temple:** February 2nd
- **The Annunciation:** March 25th
- **Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday):** Sunday before Pascha
- **The Ascension:** 40 days after Pascha

-
- **Pentecost:** 50 days after Pascha
 - **The Transfiguration:** August 6th
 - **The Dormition:** August 15th

Feast of Feasts!

- **Pascha:** Moveable Date

ICON STUDY: TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

As you read Matthew 17:1-13, show the students the icon of the Transfiguration.

Jesus did not take all of the disciples up the mountain. He only took Peter, James, and John - sometimes referred to as “the inner circle.”

The mountain in this passage is Mount Tabor in Israel. Look at your classroom maps of the Holy Land. Find Mount Tabor. It is located to the east of Nazareth and to the west of the Sea of Galilee.

Optional:

- YouTube: *Mount Tavor (Tabor) Israel Video Tour* https://youtu.be/AD0CMxT_TJk
- YouTube (some drone footage): Jezreel Valley, Mount Tabor, Israel <https://youtu.be/Ij-XmuOZu3U>
- YouTube: *Transfiguration Monastery, Mount Tabor* https://youtu.be/3_acLyRPJ78

Jesus transfigured (changed appearance) in front of these disciples.

His face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as the light. Then the disciples see Moses (right) and Elijah (left) on either side of Jesus. (Jesus is the central, main figure in the icon.)

Moses represented the Law (first 5 books of the Old Testament) and Elijah represented the prophets - the Old Testament. Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Testament.

Peter (bottom left), John (bottom middle), and James (bottom right) were not expecting Jesus' transfiguration. You can see them at the bottom of the icon on the ground and trying to process what is happening in front of them.

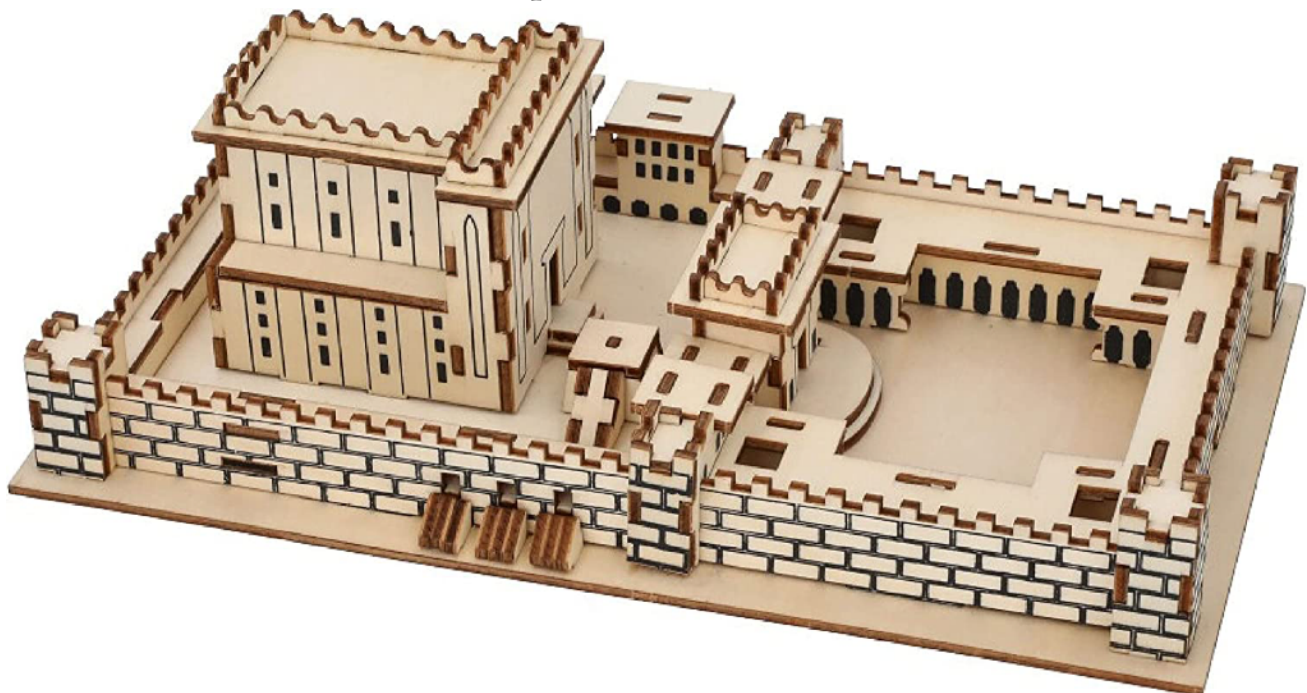
WHO ARE THE 12 DISCIPLES?

Using either paper and pencil or the white board, ask the students to name as many of the disciples as possible. (This is simply to see how many they can name quickly.)

- Now, let's see how many more you can name when we think about what you know about the disciples.
- Which disciples do we sometimes refer to as "the inner circle"? (Peter, James, John)
- We read earlier this year about Jesus calling two sets of brothers to be His disciples. If you can remember the brothers, then you will remember one more disciple. (Peter & Andrew; James & John)
- Who betrayed Jesus? (Judas Iscariot)
- Sometimes people refer to one of the disciples as "Doubting ____." (Thomas)
- Who wrote the gospel that we are studying this year in Sunday School? (Matthew)
- After thinking through this a little bit, do you remember any of the other disciples?

OPTIONAL: JEWISH TEMPLE MODEL

If time allows, spend the last 5-10 minutes of class working on assembling the Jewish Temple model. This activity is intended to take more than one Sunday to complete. This is an opportunity for the kids to have a hands-on project, as well as a visual-aid, as we move forward and discuss the Jewish Temple within our future lessons.





WEEK 16: TRANSFIGURATION

3RD & 4TH GRADE

GOALS

The Transfiguration is one of our major feast days.

To read the gospel along side of the icon of the Transfiguration

LESSON

Materials Needed: Bible, Map of the Holy Land

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pgs 228-237

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew by Blessed Theophylact, pgs 145-152

Search the Scriptures Live: Series of podcasts on Matthew -

<https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescriptureslive>

Transfiguration of Our Lord - GOARCH <https://www.goarch.org/transfiguration>

JESUS TRANSFIGURED ON THE MOUNT

Every day of the year, we are commemorating saints and/or an event of the Church. When we celebrate major feast days, we are proclaiming that this event was a big deal! There are twelve major feast days, plus Pascha - which is the feast of feasts!

12 Major Feast Days:

- **Nativity of the Theotokos:** September 8th
- **Elevation of the Holy Cross:** September 14th
- **Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple:** November 21st
- **Nativity of Christ:** December 25th
- **Theophany:** January 6th
- **Presentation of Christ into the Temple:** February 2nd
- **The Annunciation:** March 25th
- **Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday):** Sunday before Pascha
- **The Ascension:** 40 days after Pascha

-
- **Pentecost:** 50 days after Pascha
 - **The Transfiguration:** August 6th
 - **The Dormition:** August 15th

Feast of Feasts!

- **Pascha:** Moveable Date

ICON STUDY: TRANSFIGURATION OF CHRIST

As you read Matthew 17:1-13, show the students the icon of the Transfiguration.

Jesus did not take all of the disciples up the mountain. He only took Peter, James, and John - sometimes referred to as “the inner circle.”

The mountain in this passage is Mount Tabor in Israel. Look at your classroom maps of the Holy Land. Find Mount Tabor. It is located to the east of Nazareth and to the west of the Sea of Galilee.

Optional:

- YouTube: *Mount Tavor (Tabor) Israel Video Tour* https://youtu.be/AD0CMxT_TJk
- YouTube (some drone footage): Jezreel Valley, Mount Tabor, Israel <https://youtu.be/Ij-XmuOZu3U>
- YouTube: *Transfiguration Monastery, Mount Tabor* https://youtu.be/3_acLyRPJ78

Jesus transfigured (changed appearance) in front of these disciples.

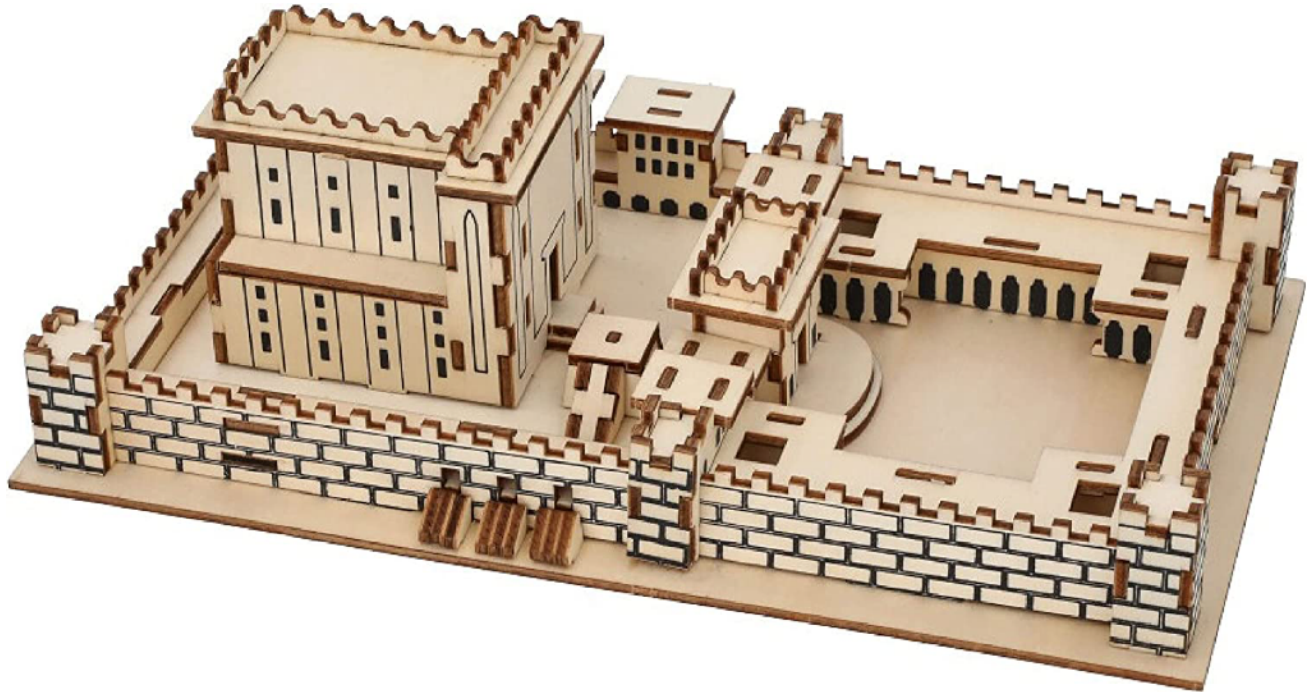
His face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as the light. Then the disciples see Moses (right) and Elijah (left) on either side of Jesus. (Jesus is the central, main figure in the icon.)

Moses represented the Law (first 5 books of the Old Testament) and Elijah represented the prophets - the Old Testament. Jesus was the fulfillment of the Old Testament.

Peter (bottom left), John (bottom middle), and James (bottom right) were not expecting Jesus' transfiguration. You can see them at the bottom of the icon on the ground and trying to process what is happening in front of them.

OPTIONAL: JEWISH TEMPLE MODEL

If time allows, spend the last 5-10 minutes of class working on assembling the Jewish Temple model. This activity is intended to take more than one Sunday to complete. This is an opportunity for the kids to have a hands-on project, as well as a visual-aid, as we move forward and discuss the Jewish Temple within our future lessons.



WEEK 16: TRANSFIGURATION

1ST & 2ND GRADE

GOALS

The Transfiguration is one of our major feast days.
To read the gospel along side of the icon of the Transfiguration

LESSON

Materials Needed: Bible, Map of the Holy Land

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pgs 228-237

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew by Blessed Theophylact, pgs 145-152

Search the Scriptures Live: Series of podcasts on Matthew -

<https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescriptureslive>

Transfiguration of Our Lord - GOARCH <https://www.goarch.org/transfiguration>

CLASS ROUTINE

Continue routine - move photo, light candle, venerate icon, prayer

TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

Read Matthew 17:1-13 in the Orthodox Children's Bible Reader - pg 219 while showing the icon on pg 218 to the students.

- Where's Jesus in this icon?
- Is Jesus on top of a mountain or some other place?
- After listening to the Bible story, who do you think is on either side of Jesus?
- Who are the three men at the bottom of the icon?
- Why are they on the ground?
- (Review) Who can tell me what is happening in this icon?
- The Transfiguration is one of our major feast days. We celebrate it on August 6th.

Optional: *101 Orthodox Saints*

Elijah - pg 39; Peter (and Paul) - pg 90; and John - pg 60

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Continue practice singing, “Lord, have mercy” in multiple languages

*If there is time remaining at the end of any class period, you can always review some of the icons we’ve studied from the Gospel of Matthew. The kids will be more likely to remember these events if they are asked to recall and retell the stories they heard in class.

WEEK 16: TRANSFIGURATION

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN

GOALS

The Transfiguration is one of our major feast days.
To read the gospel along side of the icon of the Transfiguration

LESSON

Materials Needed: Bible, Map of the Holy Land

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church by Fr. Lawrence Farley, pgs 228-237

The Explanation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew by Blessed Theophylact, pgs 145-152

Search the Scriptures Live: Series of podcasts on Matthew -

<https://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescriptureslive>

Transfiguration of Our Lord - GOARCH <https://www.goarch.org/transfiguration>

CLASS ROUTINE

Continue routine - move photo, light candle, venerate icon, prayer

TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

Read Matthew 17:1-13 in the Orthodox Children's Bible Reader - pg 219 while showing the icon on pg 218 to the students.

- Where's Jesus in this icon?
- Is Jesus on top of a mountain or some other place?
- After listening to the Bible story, who do you think is on either side of Jesus?
- Who are the three men at the bottom of the icon?
- Why are they on the ground?
- (Review) Who can tell me what is happening in this icon?
- The Transfiguration is one of our major feast days. We celebrate it on August 6th.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Continue practice singing, "Lord, have mercy" in multiple languages