

# Bible Stories for Adults

## Jesus' Transfiguration

Mark 8:27 – 9:13

### Opening

Gathering: Who do people say that Jesus was / is?

Today's Focus: The full Trinity of God – Father, Son & Holy Spirit – reveal to Jesus' disciples who He is.

Key Verses: *"But what about you?" He asked. "Who do you say I am?"* Matthew 16:16

*You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.* Matthew 16:16

Opening Prayer

### Lesson

A Place to Teach (*Matthew 16:13*)

What became a key focus of Jesus' ministry as He neared its end?

Mark 9:30-32

What happened whenever Jesus tried to find a place to be with just His apostles?

Matthew 14:13-14, 34-36

Where did Jesus finally find a place where the Jewish crowds wouldn't follow?

Matthew 15:21

Where else did Jesus take His disciples that would be away from Jewish leaders and crowds?

Matthew 16:13a

Caesarea Philippi

Caesarea Philippi - 25 miles north of Sea of Galilee, 1700 feet higher

Outside of Galilee in region ruled by Herod Philip II (third son of Herod the Great)

Name - Augustus Caesar and Herod Philip II (*Caesarea* - Caesar's town, *Philippi* - of Philip)

At base of Mount Hermon - Large mountain at northern boundary of Palestine, source of Jordan River

20 mile long ridge, three peaks - two over 9000 feet, View all of Palestine to Dead Sea

Also called Ice-Mountain - Source of ice for Damascus and Mt Lebanon during summer

Near Old Testament town of Dan in territory of Naphtali - Mainly non-Jewish now

Jeroboam set up shrine in Dan, Became worship center for Baal (was *Balinas*)

Caesarea Philippi had shrine for Greek god Pan - had been called *Panias*

Magnificent marble temple to worship Caesar - distinguishing building of town

Question of the Day (*Matthew 16:13-14*)

Surrounded by such pagan influences, what question did Jesus ask?

Mark 8:27

How does Matthew's record of Jesus' question differ?

Matthew 16:13

How does this name that Jesus gave Himself point to who He really was?

Daniel 7:13-14

Who did people think Jesus was? Did they recognize Jesus as the Messiah?

Matthew 16:14

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Jesus as John the Baptist? (*Matthew 14:1-2*)

Who was especially curious about who Jesus really was?

Luke 9:7-9

Why did Herod believe Jesus was the reincarnation of John?

Matthew 14:1-2

Were the miracles Jesus performed similar to the ones John did?

John 10:40-42

Did people think Jesus was John because they acted the same?

Luke 1:17; 3:7-9

2 Corinthians 10:1a

Did they at least look or dress the same?

Mark 1:6

John 19:23-24

What similarity should the people have recognized?

2 Kings 1:8

What other visual contrast was made between Jesus and John?

Matthew 11:18-19

Jesus as Elijah or Jeremiah? (*Matthew 16:14*)

Why did people think Jesus might be Elijah?

Malachi 4:5-6

Jews still leave an empty chair for Elijah when they celebrate the Passover

Why might people think Jesus might be Jeremiah?

2 Maccabees 2:1-12 - Before exile, Jeremiah hid the ark in a cave on Mount Nebo

Jeremiah would return before the Messiah to bring back the ark and incense altar

2 Esdras 2:18 - *For thy help I will send my servants Isaiah and Jeremiah*

The Real Question (*Matthew 16:15-17*)

Was Jesus really concerned about who the people thought He was?

Matthew 16:15

Did the disciples have a better understanding of who Jesus was?

Matthew 16:16

Had they learned this from spending the last two years watching Jesus?

Matthew 16:17

How Do You Know? (*Matthew 11:25-27*)

Was there any way they could have figured this out by themselves?

Matthew 11:25-27

Now that we have the story of Jesus in the Bible, can we figure this out for ourselves?

1 Corinthians 12:3

Peter was ready to give his confession when asked. What advice does he later give us?

1 Peter 3:15

Are we to try to be as eloquent and persuasive as Peter and Paul when telling of Jesus?

1 Corinthians 2:1-5, 13

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### Built on the Rock (*Matthew 16:18-20*)

How did Jesus use Peter's confession to help reveal His purpose for the disciples?

Matthew 16:18

What is this *petra*, the foundation of Jesus' church?

1 Corinthians 3:11

Did Peter understand what Jesus meant by calling him a stone and his confession a rock?

1 Peter 2:4-5

How did Peter explain Jesus as Christ being a large rock?

1 Peter 2:6-8

How important would this church (spiritual house) be?

Matthew 16:19

After verifying that His apostles knew who He was, did Jesus ask them to explain it to others?

Matthew 16:20

### A Complete Understanding? (*Matthew 16:21-28*)

Was Jesus just concerned that His disciples knew that He was the Messiah?

Matthew 16:21

Wasn't it clear through Peter's confession that they already understood this?

Matthew 16:22-23

Peter was rebuked as being of Satan soon after being praised for his confession from God

What did Jesus say to explain that being a stone in His church was more than just a confession?

Matthew 16:24-28

### Transfiguration (*Matthew 17:1-2*)

How long did Jesus stay in the Caesarea Philippi area teaching His disciples?

Matthew 17:1

What is significant about this time?

Exodus 24:15-16

What does Luke tell us that Jesus did there?

Luke 9:29

Luke says His clothes were as bright as lightning. What analogy does Mark give?

Mark 9:3

Was it just His clothes?

Matthew 17:2

Transfigured – Greek word is *metamorphao* (metamorphosis)

### Jesus' Glory (*2 Peter 1:16-18*)

How was this similar to, but different than what happened to Moses?

Exodus 34:29

Was this glory that Jesus was getting now that He had nearly completed His mission?

John 17:5

How does Moses' example explain to us why Jesus' glory had not been revealed?

Exodus 34:30, 33-35

How did John later refer to this in his gospel? (Also 2:11; 7:39; 11:4; 12:23; 13:31-32; 20:31)

John 1:14

What did Peter say later in one of his letters?

2 Peter 1:16-18

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### A Mountaintop Experience (*Matthew 17:3-5*)

Besides a shining Messiah, what else surprised the three apostles?

Luke 9:30-31

Departure – Greek word is *exodus*

How astonished were these disciples with what they were seeing?

Mark 9:5-6

What happened before Peter could finish making a fool out of himself?

Matthew 17:5

How would this remind the apostles that Jesus is the Messiah, the new Moses?

Deuteronomy 18:15

### The Reaction of Peter, James and John (*Matthew 17:6-13*)

How did the apostles react to this mountaintop experience?

Matthew 17:6-8

What promise of Jesus had just been fulfilled?

Mark 9:1

After seeing this magnificent Epiphany of Jesus, how would the three explain it to the others?

Matthew 17:9

Did Jesus' order bother the three?

Mark 9:10

What other question popped up as they tried to make heads-or-tails about what happened?

Matthew 17:10

How did Jesus answer their question?

Matthew 17:11-12

Did this confuse the baffled three even further?

Matthew 17:13

### Closing Prayer

### Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. Who do I believe Jesus to be?  
(*Matthew 16:13-14; Mark 3:35; John 1:9, 49; 10:11; 11:25; 14:6; John 15:13-14; 20:28-31; Philippians 2:9-10; Hebrews 12:2; 1 John 4:14; Revelation 19:13*)
2. Who do I say (to others) that Jesus is?  
(*Matthew 16:15-16; John 12:42-43; Romans 10:9-10; Phil. 2:11; Hebrews 13:15; 1 Peter 3:15*)
3. In what ways have I been an effective stone in the wall of the church?  
(*Matthew 16:18, 1 Cor. 3:10-17; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Timothy 3:15; Hebrews 3:3-6; 1 Peter 2:4-6*)
4. When have I found myself saying something stupid because I didn't trust God for the words?  
(*Mark 9:5-6; Exodus 4:10-12; Matthew 10:19-20; 12:36-37; 1 Cor. 2:1-5, 13; Colossians 3:16*)
5. God the Father was pleased with Jesus, His Son. Would He be pleased with me?  
(*Matthew 17:5; Psalm 69:30-31; Proverbs 15:8; Romans 8:5-11; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10; Galatians 1:10; 6:7-10; Ephesians 5:8-10; Colossians 1:10; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Hebrews 11:5-6*)