

# Last Sunday of Epiphany

## Peter, James and John learn more about Jesus

*Matthew 17:1-9*

**You will need to set up the room.**

*Walk around the mountain and look at it as you walk. Go to the story shelf and get the tray marked "BUTTERFLY." Carry this box and place it down in front of you.*

**There is a mountain. And these are people who will go up a mountain.**

*Trace with your finger where they will walk up the mountain and where they will stop to pray.*

**Jesus will take three friends up the mountain to pray. Many things happen when you pray. We are sometimes surprised when we pray.**

*Take out Jesus, and then one by one, take out Peter, then James and then John.*

**Jesus often prayed alone. Today he will take some of his special friends with him. He will walk up a high mountain to pray with his friends.**

*Move Jesus and his friends slowly up the mountain.*

**Jesus is looking for a place to pray with his friends. He has been preaching and healing everyone he meets. When he prays, he is very close to God his father.**

*Have Jesus lead his friends up the mountain and then stop at the top of the mountain.*

**Jesus is looking for a place to pray. He now begins to pray. His special friends watch.**

*Take some time while you watch Jesus pray.*

**Jesus is beginning to look different. He is beginning to shine from the inside out. His face is shining brightly. He is almost as bright as the sun. His cloths are shining too. He is becoming very bright. His special friends must lift their hands to their eyes he is so bright. They are surprised.**

*You might want to place your hands in front of Jesus so the light won't bother your eyes.*

**Suddenly, two more people appear.**

*Take out Moses and then Elijah and place them next to Jesus.*

**Moses stands near Jesus.**

*Point to Moses or lift him up so the children know which is Moses.*

**Moses was a very special friend of God. He was the one who led the people of Israel out of Egypt. They were slaves in Egypt for over 400 years. This took place hundreds of years ago.**

*Point to Elijah or lift him up so the children know which is Elijah.*

**Elijah was a person who told the people of God what God wanted them to do. He was a prophet, a special person who heard God speak. God sent an angel with a chariot to carry Elijah into heaven. This took place hundreds of years ago.**

*You might want to look puzzled.*

**Peter, was surprised. He didn't know what to say. He asked Jesus if he should make tents for him, and for these strangers who had just appeared.**

**Just then he heard a voice from heaven.**

*Look up and around, and listen to the words that are being said.*

**God said "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"**

**Peter, James and John were so afraid that they fell to the ground and bowed their heads. They were afraid of God's voice. They didn't look around. They heard the voice but saw no one.**

*Wait and let the experience of a voice speaking from heaven become important.*

*After a few moments, reach out and remove Moses and Elijah. Folding your hands on your lap, be quiet and wait.*

**Jesus saw how afraid his special friends were. He walked over to them.**

*Reach out and touch Peter, then James and then John.*

**Jesus touched his special friends one at a time. He didn't want them to be afraid.**

*Smile, letting the children know that they don't need to be afraid of God.*

**Jesus doesn't want his children to be afraid, even when God speaks to them.**

**When his friends looked up, they couldn't find Moses and Elijah. They had vanished.**

*You could look around and look for Moses and Elijah.*

*Pause.*

*Now let Jesus lead his friends down the mountain.*

**His friends had many questions.**

**Jesus began to walk down the mountain.**

**As they were going down the mountain, Jesus asked them not to tell anyone about what they had seen until later.**

**He told them that they were not to tell what they had seen until after he was raised from the dead.**

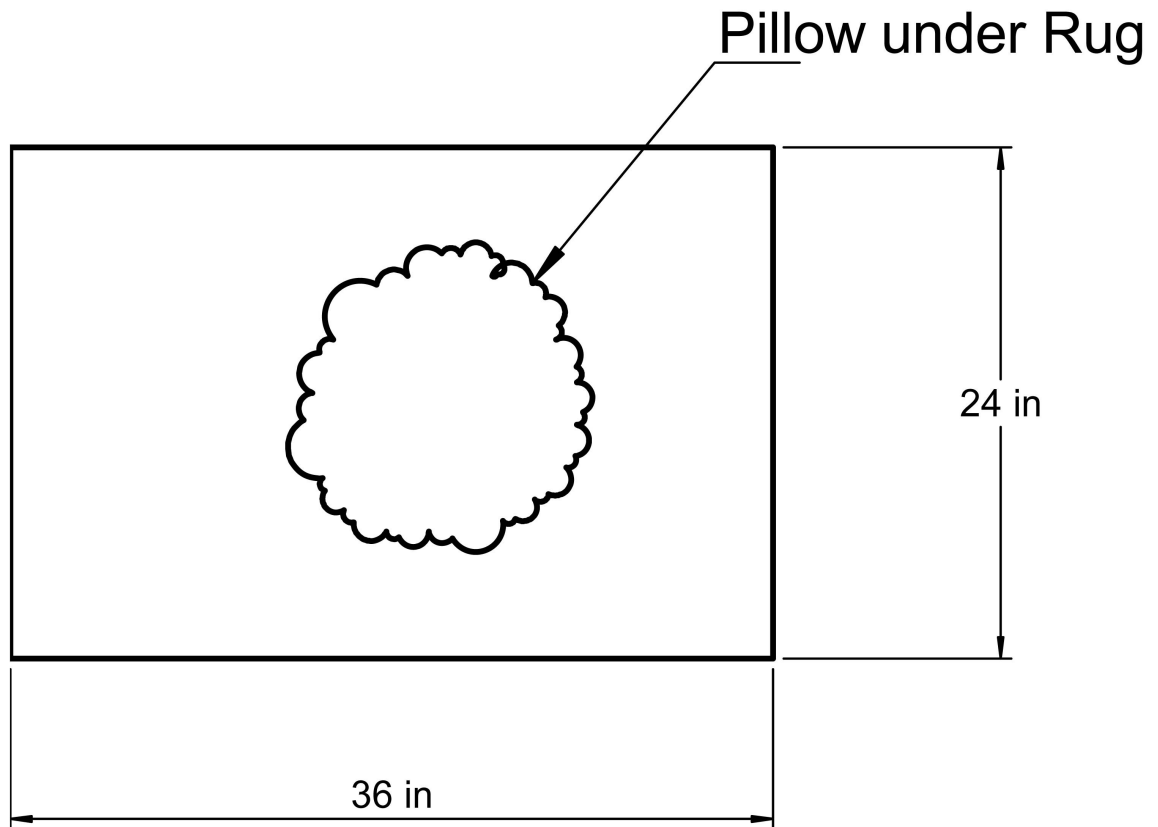
## **Responding to God's Word: Wondering Together**

- I wonder how it felt to follow Jesus up the mountain?
- I wonder what Jesus' special friends were expecting to see?
- I wonder how it felt to see Jesus change?
- I wonder what it might be like to see two people standing near Jesus who just appeared out of nowhere?
- When the voice from heaven spoke, I wonder what Peter, James and John might have experienced?
- I wonder what it meant for Peter, James or John, to be touched by Jesus?
- I wonder what it means to pray?
- I wonder what it feels like to be safe when we are afraid?
- I wonder why Jesus asked his special friends not to tell anyone about what they had seen until later?
- I wonder what being raised from the dead means?

## Materials

1. Rug or blanket with one pillow. Make a mountain by covering the pillow with the rug or blanket.
2. One figure of Jesus
3. Three figures - one for Peter, one for James and one for John
4. Two figures - one for Moses and one for Elijah

## CHILDREN



## LEADER