

Lent:

Second Sunday of Lent

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Preparation

Background for Scripture Readings

First Reading

- In the reading from Genesis, God promises Abram many descendants.
- God seals the covenant with Abram by appearing as a flaming torch between the carcasses of the sacrificial animals.
- This was symbolic because the ancient way of sealing an agreement was for both parties to walk between the split bodies of sacrificial animals.

Second Reading

- In the second reading, Paul encourages the Philippians to trust God and wait.
- Those who lose faith search for immediate gains.
- Those who wait for God's promises will share in Jesus' glory.

Gospel

- Immediately after Jesus told the disciples that he would suffer, die, and rise again, he takes a select group of them to a mountain to pray.
- While on the mountain, Jesus reveals his divine identity to Peter, John and James.
- Peter, captivated by the transformation of Jesus, wanted the scene to last.

Breaking Open the Word

Leader Instruction

Catechist Reflection Guide for Second Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18—God's Covenant with Abraham.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 27:1, 7-8a, 8b-9, 13-14—The Lord is our light and salvation.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1—We are citizens of heaven.

Gospel: Luke 9:28b-36—Transfiguration of Jesus.

Invitation to prayer (30 sec.)

Ask the children to quiet themselves and sit comfortably. Begin the session with the Sign of the Cross. Have them take three deep breaths while you prompt them to relax as they breathe in God, our Father who loves us, Jesus Christ, his Son, our brother, and God's Holy Spirit who lovingly guides us.

Listening for a word or phrase to speak to your heart (3-4 min.)

Read the Gospel passage or the special phrase slowly and deliberately while the children are silently listening. Ask them to listen for a word or phrase that seems to be God's word for them today. Spend about 30 seconds as they select their "word" from God. Ask them to silently repeat that word or phrase and to write it on their heart.

For Ages 5-6: Help children sound out the words "**Listen to Jesus.**" Have them look at the illustration and explain that in today's Gospel, Jesus goes up a mountain with three of his disciples and something very wonderful happens. Read Luke 9:28-36 from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words.

For Ages 7-8: Read aloud the words: "**This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.**" Have children look at the illustration and explain that in today's Gospel Jesus goes up a mountain with three of his disciples and something very wonderful happens. Read Luke 9:28-36 from a children's Bible or tell it in your own words.

For Ages 9-11 and Ages 12-14: Read aloud the whole passage from the Gospel according to Luke. Ask young people to listen for a word or phrase that seems to be God's word for them today. Spend about 30 seconds as they pick out their word or phrase. Ask them to silently repeat that word or phrase and to write it on their heart.

Loving God through his word (3-5 min.)

For Ages 5-6: Again call children's attention to the illustration on the handout and ask why the cloud is important. (*God the Father spoke from the cloud.*) Ask if anyone remembers what God said to the disciples. (*This is my son. Listen to him.*) Start a conversation about ways we listen to Jesus. Give some examples (*when we listen to our parents; when we are quiet and pray to Jesus; when we listen to Scripture stories about Jesus*). Have children complete the drawing activity. Close with the prayer.

For Ages 7-8: Spend a little time asking children how they think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus change before their eyes and heard the voice from the cloud. Call children's attention to the questions on the handout and read them aloud. Give children a quiet moment to think about their responses and then have them share their responses. Explain that there are many ways Jesus speaks to us (*through caring adults; in the Scriptures; when we pray*). Close with the prayer.

For ages 9-11: Ask young people to share their word or phrase. Go over the last part of the Gospel story

that is on the handout. Using the first two questions on the handout, engage the large group in sharing their responses. Ask young people to choose one of the three parts of the Gospel listed and then organize them in small groups. Have them share their choices with each other and the reasons they made that choice. Tell them to take the final question home and talk about it with their family members. Close with the prayer.

For ages 12-14: Ask young people to share their word or phrase. Then, introduce the activity by explaining that although we do not have "transfiguration" experiences, we do come to believe and trust in Jesus through prayer, events that happen to us, and people who help us believe and trust. Have young people spend some quiet time reflecting on the questions. Ask volunteers to share and explain their responses. Close with the prayer.

Living the Gospel words through the week (3-5 min.)

The handouts describe one or two ways children and young people can live this reflection on the Gospel through the week at home, school, or play. If appropriate, have them add one or two more personal choices to act on this week.