

Moses and Elijah Appear With Jesus

Luke 9:28-36



Worship Theme:



Jesus is worthy of glory.

Weaving Faith Into Life:



Children will bring glory to Jesus through worship.

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
1 Let's Praise God! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i>	Sing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Love the Lord" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) • "All Creatures of Our God and King" • "Light of the World" • "He's the King" • "Be Strong in the Lord" (Ephesians 6:10) 	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: Video equipment, scissors, tape, gold poster board, foil, flashlights

Preschool

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
2 Let's Learn the Point! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i>	Ready, Set, Glow Identify things that glow.	Classroom Supplies: Cylindrical box, glow-in-the-dark stickers, flashlight
	A Glow-ry Story Tell the Bible story with rhyme and actions.	Classroom Supplies: Box from "Ready, Set, Glow"
	Glory Sticks Construct their own instruments to give Jesus glory.	KidsOwn Worship Kit: <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> Classroom Supplies: Cardboard tube, markers, 2 foil squares, popcorn kernels, and 2 rubber bands per child; video equipment

Elementary

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
2 Let's Learn the Point! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i>	* Charged With Glory Do an experiment to experience an electrical charge.	Classroom Supplies: Copy of "Charged!" (see activity), foam plate, wool cloth, aluminum pan, foam cup, and masking tape per 4 children; paper; pencils; clock with second hand
	* Transfigured Pretend to be disciples to re-enact the Bible story.	Classroom Supplies: Alarm clock, 2 flashlights, 2 small pieces of sheer fabric, white robe, tape, newsprint
	* Glory Forever Make a mural and use it to honor Jesus.	Classroom Supplies: Newsprint, markers, tape, flashlight

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
3 Let's Pray! <i>(up to 10 minutes)</i>	The Offering Offer their gifts to God.	Classroom Supplies: Offering bowls
	Our Guest of Honor Honor Jesus for what he has done.	
	The Glory of God in Jesus Pray, honoring Jesus as the fullness of God.	

* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together. Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2. Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.

Moses and Elijah Appear With Jesus

Luke 9:28-36

The event described in this passage is often called the Transfiguration. This term comes from the Latin, meaning “to change into another form.” Peter, James, and John saw Jesus transformed physically into a different state of existence, probably assuming qualities like those of the body after resurrection.

Jesus took only three of his disciples with him up the mountain. Jesus wanted these disciples to experience what he knew was to come so that they could describe it later. (An account was considered to be reliable if established by two or three witnesses.) These same three had been chosen as witnesses earlier (see Luke 8:51) and would be witnesses again at a later date (see Matthew 26:37).

Some try to explain the change in Jesus by saying that the sun was shining on him and through his clothing while he stood at a higher elevation than his disciples. However, such explanations do not do justice to the text. Indeed, Luke describes a shocking change that took place in Jesus before their eyes: His face and clothes were as brilliant as a flash of lightning! Jesus’ earthly body shone with the light and majesty of his heavenly being.

Why were Moses and Elijah the ones to appear with Jesus? Commentators suggest various explanations, but a likely one is that Moses represented the law and Elijah represented the prophets. In this way, God demonstrated to the bewildered disciples that the coming death of Jesus fit perfectly with the other major elements of the Old Testament.

Only Luke records the topic of conversation between Jesus, Moses, and Elijah. It’s interesting to note that Jesus’ death and the salvation it would provide was a topic of conversation even among heavenly beings. Even the saints who had died looked forward to what Jesus would accomplish on the cross. Moses and Elijah were likely encouraging Jesus, helping to prepare him for the persecution and pain that weren’t far in the future.

According to Luke 9:32, the disciples must have been sleeping when the transformation occurred and then woke up to be surprised by it. When Peter realized that Elijah and Moses were about to leave, he essentially said, “It’s great to be here! Why don’t we make arrangements so they can stay?”

It’s not surprising that the disciples were afraid as the cloud came upon the mountain. After all, this whole experience had been profoundly supernatural. And they may well have remembered that God descended to the top of Mount Sinai in a cloud and that only Moses was allowed to go to the top of the mountain to experience God’s presence.

We might wonder why the disciples kept silent about this wondrous event. The answer is found in Matthew’s account of this story (Matthew 17:1-9). Jesus told them to keep quiet. And after this amazing experience, they were likely inclined to obey whatever Jesus said!

Devotion for Leaders

At the Transfiguration, Jesus’ disciples witnessed evidence of a better life awaiting them. Their faithfulness to Christ in the face of hardship would be well worth the struggle. There is nothing more important or rewarding than a relationship with Jesus.

Weaving Faith Into Your Life: These sleepy disciples almost missed the “glory of Christ” because they were exhausted (just as in the garden of Gethsemane). What in your life is stealing your energy, distracting you from what matters most? What can you eliminate from your schedule? Give God some of your best time slots (moments when you are most energetic or relaxed) to experience the wonders Christ wants to reveal to you.

Why We Worship for Leaders

In the Old Testament, God's presence sometimes appeared to people as a bright light that we call his glory. Jesus shone with that same glory because he is the Son of God who exhibits the fullness of God. Human response to the presence of God is sometimes described as giving glory to God: It's a deeply spiritual expression of praise, adoration, honor, and awe.

We see God's glory—his holy presence—through Scripture and through God's work in our lives as he answers prayer and directs our steps. Jesus is worthy of our glory because he is God's Son, the chosen sacrificed one who set aside his heavenly glory to make our relationship with God possible. In giving Jesus glory, we honor his majesty, his splendor, and his triumph over all that separated us from God.

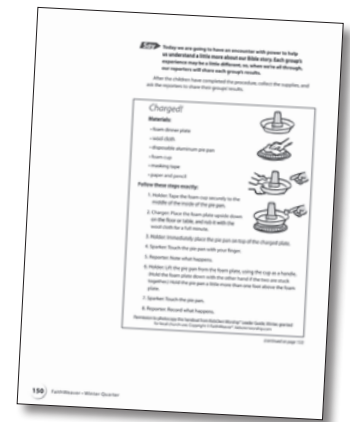
Easy Prep for Leaders

Let's Praise God!—Make sure your video equipment is ready. Cut 8-inch squares of gold poster board and 20-inch lengths of aluminum foil so you have one of each for every four children. Also have a flashlight, scissors, and tape for every four children. Place a poster-board square, a length of foil, and a flashlight on a table at the door.

Charged With Glory—Make one photocopy of the "Charged!" box (see activity) and one set of the listed supplies for every four children. Tape newsprint to a wall for a mural.

Transfigured—Recruit three adult volunteers. Gather an alarm clock or timer, two flashlights, and two pieces of sheer fabric. Have one volunteer wear a white robe and the other two volunteers hold the flashlights. Tell your volunteers to take their places when you dim the lights for the "Transfigured" activity. The volunteer in the robe should stand at the front of the room, and the volunteers holding flashlights should each be on one side of the room.

Preschool Activities—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.



1 Let's Praise God!

Play music videos from the *KidsOwn Worship DVD* as children arrive. Greet each child by name, and then

Say Look at the items on this table. Think about how you could express *glory* using only your own body and these items.

When you're ready to begin, welcome the children warmly.

Say Welcome to worship! Today I asked you to think of a way to use certain items to express *glory*. Let's hear some of your thoughts!

Allow the children to share. Some may think of suggesting God's glory by shining the flashlight on the foil to create a bright light. Some kids may connect the word *glory* with a medal honoring heroes. Some kids may think of using the items as tools for praising God, by waving the poster board or the foil as they shout, "Praise God!" for example. If your kids seemed stumped, show them one of these ideas.

Say **Glory is a word with many meanings, but every meaning is good. God showed his glory to us through his Son, Jesus. Jesus is worthy to receive praise when we give him glory because of all he has done for us.**

Ask • **What are some ways we can give Jesus glory?** (We can sing to him; we can raise our hands; we can clap for him.)

Say **Right now, we are going to give Jesus glory by expressing our love for him as we sing “Love the Lord” (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).**

▶ Sing “Love the Lord” (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).

Say **Jesus is the one who made it possible for us to know God. He gave up all the glory of heaven to come down to earth and show us who God is. When I think about all Jesus has done for us, it makes me want to rise up and praise him. Let’s stand up to glorify Jesus as we sing this song.**

▶ Sing “All Creatures of Our God and King.”

Ask • **What are some reasons Jesus deserves our praise?** (Because Jesus is God; because Jesus came to die for us.)

Say **Wow! You thought of some incredible reasons to praise Jesus—to give him glory! We can let others know all he’s done by letting our lights shine.**

▶ Sing “Light of the World.”

Say **It’s wonderful to honor Jesus for what he’s done.**

Ask • **What are some of the honors that might come your way when you do something especially well?** (Getting a trophy; being congratulated in front of other people.)

Say **It’s nice to have something we can see that represents what we have done, such as trophies or medals or certificates. Let’s use the materials we saw at the beginning of the session to actually make some trophies or awards that we’ll use as we sing the next song.**

Have the kids form groups of four, and give each group scissors, tape, a poster-board square, foil, and a flashlight. Ask them to work together to make an award to present to Jesus for one specific thing he has done. For example, children might make a Miracle at Cana award shaped like a water jug or a Prayer Answerer award shaped like praying hands. Give children about five minutes to work, and then ask them to appoint a presenter from each group. Ask the presenters to join you at the front of the room to share what their groups’ awards are being given for.



Say ▶ As we sing the next song, the presenters will raise the awards their groups created each time we sing the words *he's the King*.

▶ Sing "He's the King."

Thank the presenters for helping you, and ask them to leave the awards at the front of the room.

Say ▶ These works of art give us something to look at to remind us that Jesus has done great things. But Jesus is also worthy of glory simply because of who he is. He is God's Son. The greatest glory we can give to Jesus is not a trophy—not even our words or songs of praise. The greatest glory we can give to Jesus is something we can't see—our lives. And when we give him our lives, he gives us eternal life and his strength.

▶ Sing "Be Strong in the Lord" (Ephesians 6:10).

Pray ▶ Jesus, we praise you and give you glory. You are worthy because you are the Son of God. You show us the glory and majesty of the living God. We want to glorify you, Lord, with our words and with our lives. In your name we pray, amen.

2 Let's Learn the Point!

Preschool Activities, pages 149-150

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let's Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

Elementary Activities

** Charged With Glory*

Have the children form groups of four and select a charger, a holder, a sparker, and a reporter in each group. (If your group includes fewer than 12 children, you may wish to do this activity as a whole group.) Give each group a copy of the "Charged!" box and the listed supplies. Place a clock with a second hand where the kids can see it. Dim the lights in the room.

Worship Leader Tip

Wool fabric can be obtained by purchasing a wool jacket or sweater at a thrift shop and cutting it into pieces.

Say Today we are going to have an encounter with power to help us understand a little more about our Bible story. Each group's experience may be a little different, so, when we're all through, our reporters will share each group's results.

After the children have completed the procedure, collect the supplies, and ask the reporters to share their groups' results.

Charged!

Materials:

- foam dinner plate
- wool cloth
- disposable aluminum pie pan
- foam cup
- masking tape
- paper and pencil

Follow these steps exactly:

1. Holder: Tape the foam cup securely to the middle of the inside of the pie pan.
2. Charger: Place the foam plate upside down on the floor or table, and rub it with the wool cloth for a full minute.
3. Holder: Immediately place the pie pan on top of the charged plate.
4. Sparker: Touch the pie pan with your finger.
5. Reporter: Note what happens.
6. Holder: Lift the pie pan from the foam plate, using the cup as a handle. (Hold the foam plate down with the other hand if the two are stuck together.) Hold the pie pan a little more than one foot above the foam plate.
7. Sparker: Touch the pie pan.
8. Reporter: Record what happens.



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Moses and Elijah Appear With Jesus

Luke 9:28-36

Worship Theme:



Jesus is worthy of glory.

Easy Prep for Leaders

Ready, Set, Glow—Put glow-in-the-dark stickers around the inside of a cylindrical box, such as an oatmeal container or a potato chip canister, with a lid. If the lid is transparent, fit a piece of construction paper into the lid so the box can be completely dark. Keep the canister closed before the session so that no light can get in. It should look dark to the kids. You'll also need a flashlight.

Glory Sticks—Cut out two 5-inch squares of heavy-duty aluminum foil for each child.

Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Have Theo help take the dark box around during the “Ready, Set, Glow” activity.
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.



Ready, Set, Glow

Say ▶ **Let’s think together of some things that glow. Each time you hear me name something that glows, close your hands in a fist, and then flick your fingers out so that they look like glowing lights.** Show the children how to do this, and let them practice a few times.

- Ask** ▶
- Does a star glow?
 - Does a light bulb glow?
 - Does a baby bottle glow?
 - Does Rudolph’s nose glow?
 - Does a puppy dog glow?
 - What are some other things that glow?

Encourage the children to do the motions as their peers name glowing things. After several children have contributed,

- Ask** ▶
- Does a dark box glow?

Open the container, and let the children briefly glance inside. Put the box aside where the children can’t see it, and turn on the flashlight so that it shines on the stickers.

Say ▶ **We’ll come back to this box later, but now let’s get ready to hear a Bible story. You’ve shown me that you know what glowing looks like because you know about things that glow. Today, we’re going to hear a story about a time Jesus glowed with the glory of God. God uses this story of glowing to teach us that Jesus is worthy of glory. You can tell the story along with me. Just do what I do.**

A Glow-ry Story

Ask children to watch you and do the motion with you as you say the line.

Say ▶ **Up a mountain** *(Make climbing motions.)*
Jesus climbed.
Left all but three *(Hold up three fingers.)*
disciples behind.

The disciples slept
while Jesus prayed.

(Rest your head on your hands, then put your palms together as if praying.)

On that mountain
one fine day.

(Put your fingertips together to form a peak.)

A Glow-ry Story (continued)

While Jesus prayed, his face was changed.	<i>(Put your palms together in front of your face, spread them apart, and then hold them, palms out, on either side of your face.)</i>
Nothing about him remained quite the same.	<i>(Shake your head side to side.)</i>
His clothes were glowing, his face shone, too.	<i>(Move your hands down your body, and then circle your face with your index finger.)</i>
What were the disciples going to do?	<i>(Shrug your shoulders.)</i>
Then down came a cloud, and a clear voice said,	<i>(Hold your hands above your head, and then bring your arms down.)</i>
“This is my Son! You must listen to him.”	<i>(Point your finger, then cup one hand behind your ear.)</i>

Repeat the story if time allows.

- Say** Thanks for your help with the Bible story!
- Ask** • Why do you think Jesus glowed?
- Say** We don't really know the whole answer to why Jesus glowed. But we do know that he had been talking with God. The Bible tells about many times when people who were in a place where God was saw a very bright light. God allowed the disciples to see Jesus glow like God just this one time. It was a miracle.
- Remember our dark box? It has been with a light for quite a while now. Let's look and see what happened.**

Cover the cylindrical box with its lid, and take it around so that each child can peek under the lid. Cover the box between children.

- Ask** • Why is there light inside the dark box?
- Say** The stickers glow because they are special glow-in-the-dark stickers. Jesus was able to show God's glory because he is special. He is God's Son, and he is worthy of the glory God gave him. Jesus is also worthy of the glory we can give him. Let's make some instruments we can use to give Jesus glory.

Glory Sticks

Say The kind of glory God gave to Jesus is very different from the kind of glory we give to Jesus. We give Jesus glory when we praise him, telling others about how wonderful he is. We're going to make some glory sticks to shake as we praise Jesus.

Give each child a cardboard tube, and provide markers so children can decorate their tubes. Then give each child two 5-inch squares of heavy-duty aluminum foil and two rubber bands. Help the children as needed. Show the children how to cover one end of the tube with the foil and secure it with a rubber band. Then let each child pour about one teaspoon of unpopped popcorn into the tube. Show the children how to cover the other end of the tube with foil and secure it with a rubber band. Encourage the children to shake their glory sticks and hear the sound.

Gather the children together and play "Light of the World" as the children accompany the song with their instruments.

Ask • Besides shaking our glory sticks, what are some other things we can do to give Jesus glory?

After the children have exhausted their ideas, have them stand in a circle, holding their glory sticks. Then have them take a step toward the center of the circle as you say, "We give you glory, Lord Jesus." Have the preschoolers shake their instruments together, and then step back. Say, "Because you are worthy!" Have them step in and shake, and then step out. Say "And we love you!" Have them step in and shake, and then put their glory sticks away to take home.



(continued from page 148)

Ask

- **What surprised you most about these observations?** (There was a spark when the pie pan touched the plate; I got a shock when I touched the pie pan.)
- **Where did the pie pan get its power?** (From the plate; I'm not sure.)

Say

We could say that the spark was an expression of the power the pie pan got from the plate. You may have seen the spark; it may have looked like lightning. Or you may have only heard the sound. Either way you experienced the power of electricity.

Peter, James, and John, three of Jesus' disciples, had a similar experience with Jesus. They were actually able to see God's power and glory in Jesus. This Bible story helps us understand that Jesus is worthy of glory—the powerful glory that God has given to him, and the kind of glory that we give as we praise and worship him.

* *Transfigured*

Say

In the experiment we just did, we dimmed the lights. We're going to dim the lights again. Today's Bible story may have occurred at night because the disciples who went up to the mountain with Jesus were so sleepy. Let's imagine that we're there with Jesus on the mountain, asleep like the disciples. Close your eyes, and listen to the story until you hear something that might awaken you.

As Jesus' friends drifted off to sleep, they probably heard Jesus' voice in prayer. Jesus knew that the time he would give his life was coming closer and closer. It would take amazing strength to go through all that was to come. So, as always, he took his concerns to his heavenly Father. By staying close to the Father, he would have the strength to do what he had to do. Suddenly the disciples awakened. Set off the alarm clock, and have your volunteers shine the flashlights on the person in the white robe. They saw Jesus completely transformed by light. His face and clothing shone like lightning. Then two other people appeared in the same light. Ask two children to stand on either side of your volunteer. The disciples could hear them talking about Jesus leaving earth. Peter was really confused. As he offered to build a shelter for the men, a cloud came from heaven. Have your volunteers put the sheer fabric over the ends of the flashlights. They heard a voice call out from the cloud, "This is my Son. Listen to him." Then it was gone! Volunteers should turn off the flashlights. Bring up the room lights.

Ask

- **What do you think Peter, James, and John might have been thinking?** (They were probably scared; they were wondering what was going on.)

- **How would you have felt if you were one of the disciples there?**
(I would have wondered if it was some kind of trick; I would have been nervous.)

Say ➤ **When John later wrote the Gospel of John, he said “. . . We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14b). When he wrote the last book of the Bible, he said he heard the voices of heaven singing about Jesus: “Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!” (Revelation 5:12b). Jesus is worthy of glory in heaven and on earth.**

Ask ➤ **Why is it important to give Jesus glory?** (Because Jesus is God’s Son; because Jesus is that great.)

* *Glory Forever*

Provide markers. Show kids the newsprint you taped to the wall.

Say ➤ **Peter, James, and John saw God’s glory revealed in Jesus. Peter wanted to honor Jesus and the other two men by building them a special dwelling place. It was probably the first way that came to his mind to make sure that everyone knew Jesus was worthy of glory.**

Use this newsprint to write or draw something that you believe you could do to give Jesus glory. You’ll have about five minutes to work, and then we’ll shine a light on each part of the mural and glorify Jesus together.

Give the kids about five minutes to write or draw their ideas on the newsprint, then have the kids sit where they can see the mural. Shine the flashlight on each element of the mural, one by one. After you read a description or describe a picture, have the kids shout, “Glory!”

Say ➤ **Those are great ways to honor Jesus, who is worthy of all glory.**

Pray ➤ **Lord God, thank you for miracles, including the Transfiguration, that show us how you have given Jesus your glory. We know, Father, that if Jesus is worthy of the glory you have given him, he is certainly worthy of all the glory we can offer. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

3

Let’s Pray!

The Offering

Say ➤ **All over the world, people show special honor or respect in different ways. In Asian cultures, it is customary to bow from the waist. In many parts of the world, military people show honor with a salute. Many people get down on their knees to show respect. As we take the offering today, choose one of those actions or another one you know about to show your honor and glory to Jesus.**

Take the offering.

Our Guest of Honor

Say ▶ Sometimes we have big banquets for people to give them glory for something they've done. We invite many people to participate in these events. We call the person who is being honored the guest of honor. So that everyone can participate, each person has a chance to say one good thing about the guest of honor. Then everyone claps and cheers to show respect. Jesus is the guest of honor in every worship service. Let's take turns around the room so we can each say one good thing about Jesus.

Start with your own statement, such as, "Jesus shows us God's love." After everyone has had a turn, give Jesus a round of applause and cheering.

The Glory of God in Jesus

Say ▶ One of the best ways we can give Jesus glory is to let him know that we recognize him for who he is—God's Son, who continues to show us what God is like, just as he did on the day he was transformed. The Bible says that all the fullness of God lives in Jesus. As we pray together, I'm going to say something the Bible says about God, and you repeat it to Jesus. For example, if I say, "God, you are love," you'll say, "Jesus, you are love." This will be our closing prayer.

God, you are love. Pause.

God, you are faithful. Pause.

God, you are patient. Pause.

God, you are holy. Pause.

God, you are the Creator. Pause.

God, you are a friend. Pause.

Pray ▶ Lord Jesus, you deserve all the glory we can give you because you are so wonderful. Teach us to give you glory with our lives. In Jesus' name, amen.