

An Awesome Experience (Based on Luke 9:28–36 [37–43])

In the story about Jesus a few weeks ago, John the baptizer baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. As Jesus prayed after he was baptized, the Holy Spirit came upon him in the shape of a dove. A voice from heaven said, “You are my Son. I love you dearly. You make me happy.”

Since that time, Jesus preached and healed, but he also invited some people to be his closest disciples, or friends. They traveled with him wherever he went. They listened to him teach the crowds who gathered. They saw him heal people who had been sick for a long time.

One sunny day, Jesus asked three of those friends—Peter, John, and James—to go with him up a mountain to pray. Jesus often went off by himself to pray, so they weren’t surprised that he wanted to go up the mountain, where it was quieter. (*Show Color Pack 34.*) They talked now and again as they hiked up the mountain. They noticed the little animals that scampered away as they came near. They saw a flower here and there.

Finally they came to a place that was flat enough for them to sit down. Jesus sat down and began to pray. Peter, James, and John sat quietly, thinking about all the things Jesus did. They remembered how he tried to teach them about God and God’s plan for creation. The warm sun, the soft breeze, and the long walk up the mountain made them sleepy. Their eyes were almost closed when, suddenly, something about Jesus changed and their eyes were drawn to him. Jesus’ face looked different in a way they couldn’t describe. His clothes sparkled as bright as lightning.

To their amazement, two men were talking to Jesus. They were Moses and Elijah, two prophets of God from long, long ago. They shone brightly, too. The three were talking about what Jesus would do in Jerusalem.

Peter, James, and John were sleepy, but they were sure they weren’t dreaming.

“Master,” said Peter, “it’s a good thing we are here. We can build three shrines, one for each of you.”

As Peter was saying this, a cloud came over the mountain. Awesome, the three men thought.

A voice from the cloud said, “This is my son, the one I have chosen. Listen to him.”

As the voice spoke, Moses and Elijah disappeared. Peter, James, and John were so surprised they could not speak. When they went down to the others at the bottom of the mountain, no one told what they had seen.

“This is my
 son, the one I
 have chosen.
 Listen to him.”

Listen to the Window

Do you know the story of the lost sheep? Jesus told this story to teach about God's love. You can read it in your Bible at Luke 15:3–7. An artist was drawing an illustration of this story, but it isn't finished. Finish the picture and color it.

