

The Transfiguration of Jesus



twinkl

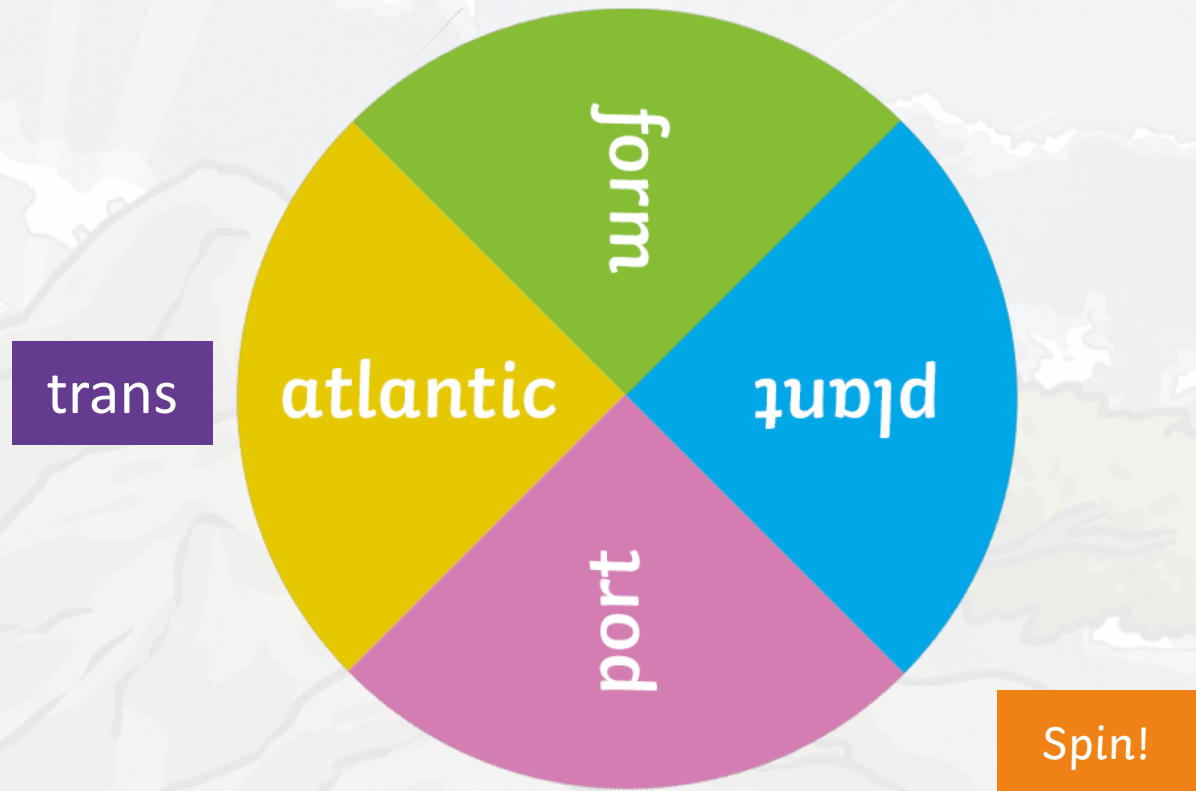
Thursday 28th January 2021

T: Can I understand the story of the 'Transfiguration of Jesus'?



What Does Transfiguration Mean?

The prefix 'trans' means across, through or to totally change.
What do you think these words mean? Talk to your partner about them.



What Does Transfiguration Mean?

Transport means when goods or people are moved from one place to another.

Transform means to totally change the look (form) of someone or something.

Transatlantic means across the Atlantic Ocean.

Transplant means to put something in a new place.

Today, we are going to look at a story from the Bible called 'The Transfiguration of Jesus'. The word 'transfigure' means to be changed into something more beautiful or special.

If you have a Bible at home, you can find this story in the Gospels: Matthew 17:1–8, Mark 9:2–8, Luke 9:28–36.

Jesus

Jesus had been extremely busy. He had performed several miracles, such as feeding thousands of people with a small amount of food, and healing a woman's daughter. Everywhere Jesus went, crowds of people followed him, wishing him to perform miracles and asking him complicated questions.

Wanting to have some peace, Jesus and three of his disciples, Peter, James and John, climbed up a high mountain.



The Transfiguration

At the summit of the mountain, the disciples were astonished to see a dramatic change in Jesus. His face became as bright as the Sun and his clothes turned a dazzling white.

Peter, James and John were mesmerised.



Elijah and Moses

The disciples became more astonished when two figures appeared beside Jesus.

The two people were Elijah and Moses. Elijah and Moses were incredibly important prophets (messengers from God) who had lived hundreds of years before. Their stories were told in the Old Testament part of the Bible and in the Torah (the Jewish Holy Book).

Although the disciples had been taught all about these prophets, they were amazed to actually see them.

Elijah and Moses talked to Jesus, although the Bible doesn't record their words.



A Voice

Peter often got over excited. He exclaimed, 'It is so great that we are here! Why don't I build special shelters for Jesus, Elijah and Moses?'

As he was saying these words, a bright cloud came and covered the disciples. They couldn't see a thing!

Suddenly, a booming voice was heard. 'This is my Son and I am very pleased with Him. Listen to what He says.'

Peter, James and John were terrified. All three of them fell face down on the ground, afraid to look up.



Jesus' Words

Then they heard Jesus' kind, calm voice. 'Get up,' he told them, 'And don't be afraid.'

At these words, the disciples looked up. Moses and Elijah had disappeared and Jesus looked as he normally did.

They went back down the mountain, knowing they had witnessed something special.

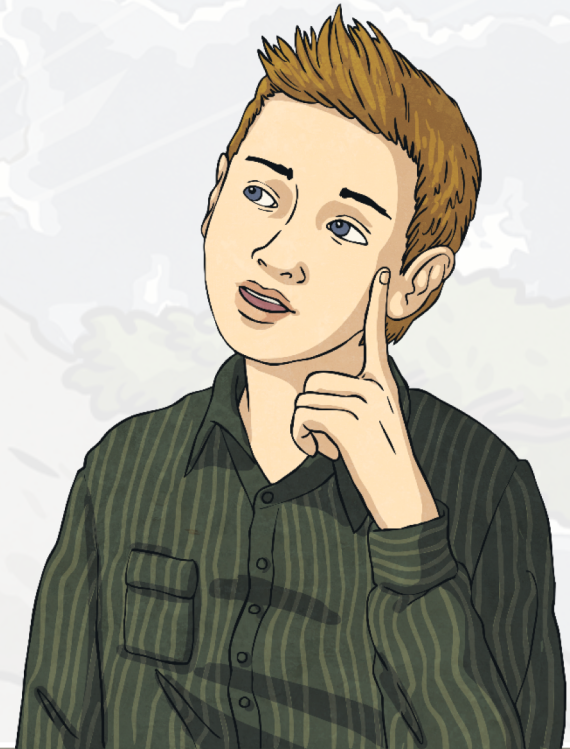
'Don't tell anyone about this yet,' Jesus instructed them. 'Wait for the right time.'



What Does the Story Mean?

Jesus' transfiguration is a symbol of heaven and Earth meeting.

The prophets and the loud voice are meant to show that Jesus was also an important messenger from God.



Today's activity

Imagine you had been one of the disciples on the mountain with Jesus. Write two questions you would have asked Jesus and write two questions you would have asked Moses and Elijah. If you are stuck, you can go back to the story to read it again.

You can complete the activity either on paper or the word document available.

