**FIRST STEPS TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

Session 4 of 4

# Jesus is glorious!

### MEETING AIM

To discover that Jesus is special.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 17:1-13

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your particular situation.

Over this month, the children have encountered Jesus walking on water, seen him feed thousands of people and heard from Peter who Jesus is. In this Bible story, Jesus’ true glory is revealed, and God the Father affirms that Jesus is his Son and has his blessing. As you prepare this session, think about what this story tells you about who Jesus is. What does it mean to you that Jesus is God’s Son?

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

Start your time together with some simple refreshments and ask the children to share about the week they have had. Ask them if they have seen anything amazing recently. It could be a show in a theatre, something in a film, a place they have visited or something they have made themselves. What was it like?

### PLAY – 10 mins

**You will need:** free-play equipment

Set out all the toys and free-play equipment and invite the children to play with whatever they would like. Join in with the children’s play if they invite you!

### BIBLE STORY – 10 mins

**You will need:** large piece of material, such as a flat bedsheet; lots of decorations, such as coloured scraps of material, shiny paper, costume jewellery and large sequins; safety pins or sticky tape; torches; two large white pieces of material

Show the children the material and the decorations and help them to decorate the material to make it look like a fancy, shining cloak. As you work, chat about who might wear something special like the cloak you are making. What kind of person would they be?

When you have finished, admire the cloak and then tell this story:

One day, Jesus took three of his friends – Peter, James and John – and they walked up a very high mountain. *All walk around the room as if you are walking up a mountain. How would the children walk?*

When they got to the top of the mountain, suddenly, Jesus completely changed! His face was shining like the sun and his clothes became as white as light! *Put your special cloak on one of the children, then shine your torches on the shiny decorations to see the light reflecting of them. (Be careful that the children don’t shine the torches in others’ faces.)*

Two people appeared next to Jesus. One was God’s friend Moses. *Put one of the white pieces of material on another child like a cloak, and stand them next to your Jesus.* One was God’s friend Elijah. *Put the other piece of material on another child like a cloak, and stand them on the other side of Jesus.* These friends of God had lived a long time ago, but here they were with Jesus!

Peter, James and John were very excited, but then a bright cloud passed over them and they heard a voice. It said: “This is my own dear Son. I am pleased with him. Listen to what he says.”

It was God’s voice! The disciples were so afraid that they lay face down on the floor. *Ask all the children not wearing a cloak to do so, hiding their face so that they can’t see. When everyone is lying down, take the cloaks off Elijah and Moses and ask them lie down too. Then, take Jesus’ shiny cloak off.*

Jesus came over to his friends and touched them. *Ask Jesus to touch the shoulder of everyone lying down.* “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid!” When they opened their eyes, they could only see Jesus. *Ask everyone to open their eyes and stand up.*

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Continue sitting in your picnic area and eat the crackers. As you do so, ask the children these questions, encouraging everyone to take turns to contribute:

* What was your favourite part of the story?
* What words would you use to describe Jesus?
* Who do you think Jesus is?
* What does this story tell you about Jesus?
* Do you want to ask Jesus anything? What do you want to ask him?

### CREATIVE TIME – 10 mins

**You will need:** large pieces of paper; art materials

Beforehand, collect a range of art materials and set them out ready for the children to use. At this point in the session, show the children the art materials and encourage them to create a picture that represents what they think about the story, who Jesus is or anything that they are thinking about today.

As they work, chat about the story and encourage the children in their creativity. This is space for the group to process what God has said to them today. It doesn’t matter if they produce a finished picture or even if the picture seems to have nothing to do with the story. God will be speaking with the children and working in their lives – the picture they create is almost incidental.

If any children want to show their pictures to the rest of the group, let them do so.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

**You will need:** large sheet of paper; marker pen

If you did the prayer activity in the previous sessions, then use the same piece of paper. Ask the children how God has answered some of the prayers you wrote down in Sessions 1, 2 or 3. If you didn’t, start afresh today with a new piece of paper.

In the centre of the paper, write “Jesus is amazing”. Ask them to think about if Jesus is amazing, what do they want to talk about with him today? Write each suggestion down on the paper and pray a short prayer asking Jesus to help with that. After the first two or three suggestions, ask the children if they would like to pray a short prayer about each suggestion, rather than you doing it.

When all the children have told you what they want to talk to Jesus about, say a closing prayer, thanking Jesus for being amazing and caring about us. Keep the sheet of paper safe for next week.

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