The Transfiguration of Jesus

Scripture
The transfiguration of Jesus marks a turning point in his ministry, when he leaves Galilee and begins his last journey to Jerusalem.

Material
The basket for The Transfiguration of Jesus is on one of the New Testament shelves.
It contains:
- green felt underlay
- wooden figure of Jesus
- wooden figures of 12 disciples
You’ll also need the mountain.

Movements
Walk slowly to the shelf and pick up the basket with the materials for The Transfiguration of Jesus. Carry it carefully to the circle and set the basket beside you. Get the Mount of Transfiguration and put it with the basket of materials. Sit quietly while you feel the story forming in you.

Take the green felt underlay and lay it out in front of you. Smooth it.

Present Jesus and place him near the right corner that is farthest from you, leaving room for the disciples to be placed in front of him.

Present and place the disciples near Jesus, facing him with Peter, James, and John in the row closest to Jesus.

Words
Jesus and his disciples were teaching in the villages and the countryside.
Jesus had been saying amazing things and doing many wonderful things, but people did not know who he really was.

So one day, Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”

They answered, “Some say you are John the Baptist, or Elijah, or one of the prophets.”

Pause.

“But who do you say that I am?” Jesus asked.

Pause.

“You are the Christ,” Peter answered.

“You are blessed, Peter,” Jesus said, “for God has shown you who I am.”

Pause.
Present the mountain and place the back edge of the mountain on the edge of the underlay closest to you near the center of the edge. Turn Jesus and move him to the foot of the mountain. Move Peter until he is behind Jesus. Then move James and John behind Peter. Move Jesus up the mountain to the center top, and turn him so he faces where Peter will stand. Move Peter to a lower ledge on the mountain, so he faces Jesus. Move James a little behind and to your left of Peter. Move John to your right of Peter.

Pause.

Glide your hand in front of his face, making sure not to touch it.

Glide your hand in front of his clothes.

Place and keep your right-hand fingers on the spot to your right of Jesus.

Place and keep your left-hand fingers on the spot to your left of Jesus. Leave both hands there.

Bring your arms and hands together, forming a circular cloud covering the scene.

Pause.

As Jesus was talking with God, he was transfigured. His face began to shine as bright as the sun.

His clothes became dazzling white.

And Elijah…

and Moses…

appeared beside Jesus.

Suddenly a cloud covered them.

The disciples were terrified.

Then a voice said, “This is my special child, whom I love. Listen to him.”

Then Jesus said, “I must go up to Jerusalem for Passover. I will be killed, but on the third day God will make me alive again.” The disciples could not believe this.

Jesus taught them for six more days.

Then he led Peter, James, and John to a high mountain to talk to God.
Slowly move your hands and arms away in a circular motion. Looking around, the disciples saw only Jesus. “Don’t be afraid,” Jesus said. “Come, follow me.”

Sit back and pause a moment, then begin the wondering.

- I wonder how Peter, James, and John are feeling?
- I wonder what they might really want to do?
- I wonder what it was like to see Jesus transfigured?
- I wonder how Peter, James, and John feel about what they saw?

Move your hand toward the other nine disciples.

- I wonder how the disciples feel when Peter says Jesus is the Christ?
- I wonder what the other disciples might have answered?
- I wonder how they could know that Jesus is the Christ?
- I wonder how Jesus is feeling?

After the wondering is over, put the story away carefully. Return the lesson to its spot on the shelf. Then return to your spot in the circle and dismiss the children one by one to do their work.
