

This is a wonderful place



Sign of the Cross.

Perhaps last week you didn't say "no", you said "yes" and it was a mistake. Don't worry, God still loves you and you can put things right. (Pause) Let's sing. (See p. 43)



quietly by yourselves

Have you ever been taken to a special place where other people don't usually go?

- The back of a shop?
- Inside your mum/dad's office?
- Into the teacher's staff room?
- Where?



when each child has had time to think

Where did you go? Did it make you feel special?
Why were you chosen? Why did you go? What happened?



Jesus took three friends to a special place. They saw some wonderful things. On their way home Jesus asked them to keep it a secret for a while.

welcome the Gospel with a song. (Gospel acclamations p. 220)



all stand (adapted from Matthew 17:1-9)



Jesus took Peter, James and John up to the top of a high mountain. They went there to pray.

While they were there two men appeared (Elijah and Moses) they were talking to Jesus.

Jesus looked absolutely radiant! He looked wonderful.

Peter said to Jesus, "This is a wonderful place, let's put up three tents."

Peter hadn't finished speaking when everywhere clouded over and became dark.

Then they all heard a voice from the cloud saying,

"This is my Son, the chosen one, listen to him."

When they looked again the two men had gone and they were alone with Jesus so they went home.

On the way home Jesus said, "Don't tell anyone until after I have risen from the dead."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



all sit (some suggestions)

Do you wish that you had been there? What would you have done? Why do you think Peter wanted to put up tents?

What was God our Father telling us? Why?

Do you think the friends were surprised that Jesus asked them to keep it a secret for a while? Why do you think Jesus said that?

They did keep the secret. Could you have kept it?

LORD, IT IS GOOD TO BE HERE

VISUAL AIDS

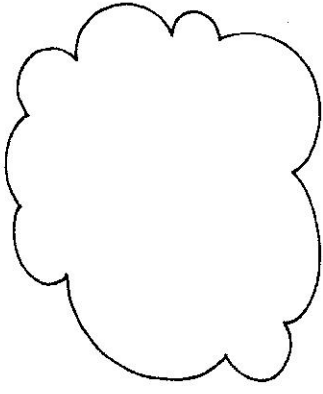
- > Mountain scenes.
- > Twigs bursting into bud.
- > Cloud shape cut-outs.

SHARING

Encourage the children to talk about how the world is changed by sunlight.

Twigs that look dead sprout buds. Flowers open.

Have the children give examples. Everything comes alive in the warmth of spring.



WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Say/sing together:

Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour.
This is my beloved son.
Listen to him.
Praise to you, O Christ, our Saviour.

A reading from the Good News given to us by Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus took with him Peter, James and John, and led them up a high mountain to pray.
As Jesus prayed, he changed.
His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as brilliant as lightning.

Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared, talking to him. Peter said, 'Lord, it's good that we are here. Let us make three tents here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.'
As he spoke, a bright cloud came and covered them with its shadow, and from the cloud came a voice which said, 'This is my beloved Son. Listen to him.'

When they heard this, Jesus' friends were terrified, and hid their faces. Jesus touched them and said 'Don't be afraid.'
And when they looked up, they saw no one - only Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION

Where did Jesus go to pray?
Who did he take with him?
What happened?
Who appeared with Jesus?
Why did the cloud come?
- as a sign of God's presence.

The world is full of signs of God's presence; have the children give examples.

Above all, God has given us Jesus as a special sign of his presence.

What did the voice from the cloud say?
How can we listen to Jesus in the coming week?

ACTIVITIES

- > Have the children mime the Gospel.
- > Give out the cloud shapes.
- > On them, have the children write or draw: either, ways in which they can be signs of God's love;

or, ways of following Jesus more closely.