

Theme : Peter sees Jesus' glory

Games :

Amazing/Ordinary:

1 Make a list of some things that could be amazing or ordinary, e.g. *putting a man on the moon; the birth of a baby; a thunderstorm; chocolate; football*. Label opposite ends of the room 'Ordinary' and 'Amazing'. **2** Read out each item – the children run to which they think best describes it – ask some why they chose. **3** Finish by calling out 'Jesus' and let the children do the same. Get them to say examples of some amazing things Jesus did.

Wink murder: 1 Get everyone to sit in a circle with their eyes closed. Walk all the way round the circle and tap one person on the back – this person is the murderer. **2** Get everyone to open their eyes. Explain that the murderer must wink at their victims. Anyone who gets winked at must 'die' with appropriate sound effects. Everyone else has to try to guess who the murderer is. If someone guesses incorrectly they also have to 'die'. If they get it right, choose another murderer and play another round. **3** Say that you have all been trying to solve the mystery of who the murderer is. But some mysteries can't be explained or solved – we have to live with them and remain in awe of them. One of those mysteries is how Jesus can be both fully God and fully human.

Follow A Leader: 1 Get everyone to stand in a circle, facing inwards with their eyes closed. Walk all the way round the circle and tap one person on the shoulder. Get everyone to open their eyes. **2** Explain that the person whose shoulder you have touched is the leader. The young people have to walk around the room, and try to work out who the leader is, and then follow that person around the room. **3** Let them walk around for a minute and then reveal who the leader was. Try it another couple of times. Try tapping everyone or no one to see what happens! **4** Say that in this game you had to work out who to follow and who the leader was. But it was difficult to know who definitely was the leader and there was a lot of doubt and uncertainty. The disciples had been following Jesus for a while, but they were about to have an experience that showed them beyond doubt that he definitely was the leader they were meant to be following.

Introduction : What's amazing?

Ask what the children think the word 'amazing' means (*something very impressive and surprising*).

Ask them to suggest some things that are amazing. Get them to choose which they think is the most amazing. Today we are going to look at an event that amazed Peter.

Story : Tell the story of the Transfiguration. Based on Luke 9:28-36. You can act out story in resources.

Application : Show the images to the group and see if they can guess who they are.

The answers are: 1 Mr Incredible, 2 Spiderman, 3 Hannah Montana, 4 David Beckham

Some of these characters were easier to recognise than others. Have any of you ever seen anyone famous? Did you recognise them straight away or did it take you a while? Celebrities often try to 'disguise' themselves when they're out in public.

Jesus is the Son of God but even his disciples didn't recognise it straight away. It took them time to realise that Jesus wasn't just an amazing teacher; he was actually the Son of God.

So, what do you think about Jesus? Was he... magician? ...fictional character? ...con-man? ...clever talker? ...healer? Or do you believe he was, and still is, the Son of God?

It's an important question to think about, because what you think about Jesus has a major impact on your whole life.

Memory verse : " *This is my own dear Son - listen to him!*" Mark 9:7

Write each word in speech bubble cloud (see resources) on different coloured card for each team; cut out and spread out round the room. Get children to search for one particular colour. The first team to find their complete memory verse and put it in the right order is the winner.

Prayer: Remind the children that Jesus told the disciples not to say anything about what they had seen. Ask them how the disciples might have felt. Say that the mountain-top experience probably confirmed that Jesus was truly extraordinary. Hand out paper and postcards. Tell the children to make an envelope, and think about their own extraordinary experiences with Jesus. Ask them to write or draw an experience on a postcard to go into the envelope. Pray together: 'Thank you, Jesus, that you are extraordinary! Help me to remember this when things are difficult. Amen.' Tell the children to seal their envelope and keep it to open as an encouragement in difficult times.

Song : *We want to see Jesus lifted high* Doug Horley; 2002 Kingsway Music

CRAFT : Can be done at start while gathering

Look at the stained glass window on this week's Funsheet. Explain that in a darkened room, a stained-glass window is nothing special. Only when light is shone behind can you see all the glorious picture. (Similarly, when Peter looked at Jesus, it seemed like He was just a man. Peter needed the light of the transfiguration to reveal to him that Jesus was extraordinary.) Get the children to colour the window and hold it up first to the wall, then to a light or window.

Resources : *Story, speech bubble cloud, application pictures, funsheet.*

Characters: Jesus / Peter / John / James / Moses / Elijah

(Encourage the children to show how they would look or feel.)

Jesus walked up a high mountain with three of his disciples, Peter, James and John. The hill was steep and it took a long time, but finally they got to the top. Jesus started to pray.

While he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning, glowing brilliant white.

Suddenly two men appeared talking with Jesus. They were Moses and Elijah!

Peter, James and John were amazed at seeing Jesus change before their eyes, and then Moses and Elijah appearing there too. Peter was so amazed that he said, 'Let's build shelters for each of you, Jesus, one for Moses, one for Elijah and one for you.' But he didn't really know what he was saying.

While he was speaking a cloud covered them all and they were afraid. Then they heard a voice speaking from the cloud: 'This is my chosen Son. Listen to what he says.'

When the voice stopped, Jesus was all alone. Jesus told Peter, James and John not to tell anyone what they had seen until after he had risen from the dead. So they went down the mountain and did not tell anyone the amazing thing they had seen.



