

Wow!

Mark 9.2-9 Transfiguration

Jesus invites the closest of his disciples to go up a high mountain with him. The disciples are dazzled by his altered appearance. In contrast to the voice that spoke to Jesus at his baptism, the voice from the cloud speaks directly to the disciples and tells them to 'listen to him', before they head back down the mountain.

This week we explore unexpected, life-changing moments.

Prepare your young people's session

Read Bible notes on [WEB](#).

Are you quick to notice/recognise God in 'wow' moments?

Young people can experience many moments that could be life-changing, but they may not pause long enough to recognise them. Such moments are not just about exam results or a special purchase, but may include chance comments from people around them, unusual experiences or even a Valentine's card! Helpful questions to share for such occasions would be 'Where is God in this?' or 'What should I notice here?'.

Find more ideas opposite. Go to www.rootsontheweb.com for links, templates, images, tracks.

GATHER

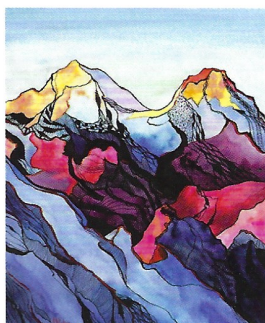
Take time to pause 5 mins **ES**

You will need: a sand-timer; pens, paper.

- Ask the young people if they have ever experienced a 'wow' moment. What about receiving a Valentine? What events are really life-changing? Are they always massive, or can 'wow' moments be tiny?
- Discuss the importance of being alert to be able to notice the things of God. Invite the young people to go back over the past week and to think of any small or bigger 'wow' moments, as the sand of the timer runs through.
- Ask them to write down any moments that might have involved God or where God was present throughout the week.

First Impressions [WEB](#)

You could also use the image and following questions to help introduce the theme.



- How well does this image illustrate your experience of 'wow' moments?
- What experiences have been most transformative in your life?

SHARE THE WORD

RCL Last after Epiphany Year B:
2 Kings 2.1-12; Psalm 50.1-6;
2 Corinthians 4.3-6; **Mark 9.2-9**

Share a mountain-top experience

10 mins **ES**

- Read up to verse 8 while walking together (ideally uphill), then stop. Read the final verse as you come back down again.
- Alternatively, you could share something lovely, e.g. food, then take it away at the end of verse 8.
- Discuss how this was an amazing moment, but that it had to come to an end. Ask the young people if they have ever had an experience like that.

EXPLORE AND RESPOND

Play human pretzel 5 mins **E**

Transform the circle of people

- Invite everyone to stand in a circle and hold both hands forward. Ask each young person to join their left hand to another person and their right hand to someone else (but not someone standing next to them). This creates a tangle of arms.
- Now invite the young people to untangle themselves without letting go. The whole circle needs to undergo a transformation together. Discuss afterwards how this felt.

Plan some action 10 mins **WEA**

Transform something locally

You will need: large sheets of paper and pens.

- Invite the young people to work in small groups. Give them two minutes to write down things at church, school or in the community that need to be transformed by the love and glory of Jesus.
- Ask each group to select their top two ideas, which they will pitch to everyone else. Everyone votes for their preferred 'transforming' idea – try to focus on achievable goals.
- Plan at least one action that the group can take towards transforming the situation.

Ask to be transformed 5 mins **ESA**

As you pray to God

«» Play the track 'Head to the Heart', United Pursuit on *Simple Gospel*.

Pray together: **Jesus, give us a glimpse of your glory. Teach us to recognise your light. Guide us to look with your eyes. Show us how to work with your hands. Help us to love with your heart. Inspire us to live your will for us. For yours is the glory! Amen.**

[WEB](#) Check-in: Connecting faith with everyday, real-life issues.

GO WITH GOD

Consider together what you have explored, what that means for each of you and how it might influence your daily lives.

«» Play the track 'Resurrection Day', Rend Collective on *Good News*.

- Give each young person a piece of blank paper/canvas, and ask them to imagine an artist setting it on an easel and starting to apply colours. The canvas changes with each brushstroke. Soon the blank canvas has been transformed by a layer of paint and it glows with colour. Jesus was indistinguishable from any other man of his time and then by God's power he was transfigured into dazzling glory.
- Ask: Where do you fit into this story? Are you a blank canvas or is God already transforming you? Give the young people time to transform their 'blank canvas' in any way they wish, using paint and brushes.

Go with God 24/7

Transform something this week by befriending someone, by tidying a neglected area, by giving money to a charity or spreading good comments on social media. **EA**