

Children's Liturgy of the Word

2nd Sunday of Lent – Year B

Specific lesson plan for
Feb. 27/28, 2021

Items in the Bible bag: A deck of cards and perhaps a book on magic tricks.

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark:

The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

Jesus said to his closest friends, Peter, James, and John, "Come with me to the mountaintop to pray."

They climbed for hours until their legs ached. At last they were at the top. Jesus' face began shining with a light as bright as the sun, and his clothes seemed to glow. Moses and Elijah, two great leaders who had died long ago, appeared next to Jesus and began to talk with him.

Peter and his friends were stunned. "Lord," Peter gasped, "we are blessed to be here. Let me build houses, and we can stay in this wonderful place forever!"

But even as he was speaking, a bright cloud came down and covered them all. A voice spoke from the cloud.

"This is my Son who fills me with joy. I love him. Listen to what he says."

Peter, James, and John covered their heads and threw themselves on the ground in fear. Jesus touched them gently on the shoulder. The cloud had gone, and Jesus was alone with them.

"We cannot stay on the mountaintop," Jesus said. "We must return to the valley where God's children need us."

The Gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

So how does the item in the bible bag relate to the

I have a really cool card trick to show you this morning. (Shuffle the cards a couple of times.) First, I need a helper. (Choose a helper and continue.) I want you to pick a card out of this deck. Don't show it to me, but you can show everyone else. I'll cover my eyes so I can't see it. Now, I want you to carefully slide that card right into the middle of the deck. Don't let me see it! Now, this is the amazing part. I am going to snap my fingers, and the card that you selected will move from the middle of the deck to to top of the deck. Are you ready? (Snap!) Here it is! Here is your card right on top. (Pick up the card and show it to your helper.)

That is your card, isn't it? It isn't? Well, I don't understand what happened. I bought this book to teach me how to do this trick and it didn't work. It said I should let you choose a card and put it in the middle of the deck and when I snapped my fingers it would move to the top. Oh, there was a bunch of other stuff I was supposed to do, but that stuff was all too complicated. I skipped over that part. It is supposed to be a magic trick, so I thought it would work at the snap of my fingers.

That was pretty foolish of me, wasn't it? Well, sometimes we think life should be that easy too, don't we? We think that everything should happen at the snap of a finger. When life is hard, we look for the easy way out.

That isn't anything new. People were like that in Jesus' day too. One day Jesus was talking to his disciples and he was telling them all he was going to have to suffer to save the world from sin. He told them how he was

going to be made fun of, beaten, crucified, and buried, but that he would rise again on the third day. That was what his Father had sent him to do.

Peter had other ideas. He knew that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God, and that wasn't what he wanted for Jesus. There had to be an easier way. Well, it is true. There was an easier way. Jesus had the power. He could have taken the easy way out. He could have set up his kingdom right here on earth with the snap of his fingers. But that was not God's plan.

Jesus turned to Peter and scolded him. "Get behind me, Satan!" Jesus said to Peter. "You don't have your mind on the things of God, you have your mind on the things of men!"

Jesus wasn't interested in taking the easy way out and he doesn't want us looking for the easy way out either. He said, "If anyone would follow me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

Being a disciple of Jesus is not easy. It doesn't happen with the snap of our fingers. It isn't easy, but the reward is great!

Father, help us to be willing to take up our cross and follow Jesus. We know it won't be easy, but it will be worth it. Amen.

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I will follow Jesus, our Leader

