

LUKE 9: 28-45

INSPIRATION & HOPE

before & after

Read the sections of text before and after the Transfiguration story. Before this moment, the disciples are asking questions about **Jesus' identity**. After this story, Luke records a story in stark contrast: an incident of a **child with a demon**.

What do you think this mean?

about the text

prophetic word

Deuteronomy 18:15 promised **a prophet like Moses** whom the people would listen to.

context

We read this story each year the Sunday before **Ash Wednesday**, when Lent begins.

What does this story have to do with Lent?

Read the story aloud together.

discussion

1

Have you ever had a "mountain top" experience?

It could be a time you heard God's voice speak in some clear way, when you had a vision or dream, or just a season when you felt God reveling God's presence and identity to you.

Jesus gives this "vision" to the disciples right before he begins his journey toward the cross. A part of their call will be following Jesus and bearing witness to his story.

How do you think this vision prepared them for what was ahead?

2

3

How did your mountain top experience prepare you for what was next in your own life?

Closing Blessing

Believe me, I know
how tempting it is
to remain inside this blessing,
to linger where everything
is dazzling
and clear.

We could build walls
around this blessing,
put a roof over it.
We could bring in
a table, chairs,
have the most amazing meals.
We could make a home.
We could stay.

But this blessing
is built for leaving.
This blessing
is made for coming down
the mountain.
This blessing
wants to be in motion,
to travel with you
as you return
to level ground.

It will seem strange
how quiet this blessing becomes
when it returns to earth.
It is not shy.
It is not afraid.

It simply knows
how to bide its time,
to watch and wait,
to discern and pray

until the moment comes
when it will reveal
everything it knows,
when it will shine forth
with all it has seen,
when it will dazzle
with the unforgettable light
you have carried
all this way.

—Jan Richardson's "Dazzling"