



## Whiter than White By Deborah Wassenberg

*Sometimes I write lessons that fill the gaps from my childhood understanding of scripture. I read about the Transfiguration of Jesus and probably had a lesson about it, but for a long time it remained one of those Biblical events that mystified me. So, here's a lesson for you to teach your kids explaining The Transfiguration. And I don't think it will be easily forgotten thanks to Mrs Sudso!*

### Suggested You Tube Songs:

- Designed to Shine (OKTV Global)
- Zeal (chapelhill kids)
- We Love, We Love (Jana Alayra)

### Bible Lesson: The Transfiguration of Jesus

Bible References: Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8, Luke 9:28-36; 2 Peter 1:16-18; Exodus 33:12-23 & 34:29-30; 1 Kings 19:9-13a

#### **Character:**

Mrs Sudso is a laundress who owns and operates the 'Rinse Right Laundromat'. She also takes in washing for clients too busy to do their own. She loves nothing better than to see white shirts bright and football socks smelling clean and fresh.

#### **Costume:**

Mrs Sudso wears a full apron with big pockets in the front because it's handy to keep things in it. Her hair is out of her way, caught up in a headscarf. It's clipped together with pegs. Coloured pegs are also pegged here and there on her clothing. She is so busy washing she's forgotten they're there! She also wears bright floral gum boots to keep her feet dry.

#### **Props:**

*(I have used the football sock, handkerchief and nappy props (see script below) at a Christian Performing Arts Holiday Program. The effect on the children was hilarious! They know the mud, snot and poo can't possibly be real but the idea of it is so gross they can't sit still!)*

Football sock dirtied using real mud, or paint  
Handkerchief covered in 'snot' which is green slime

Cloth nappy (diaper) smeared with brown paint  
Long handled tongs  
Pair of sunglasses

Flashcards to peg on the washing line (illustrations are available on line from Free Bible Images)

- 1: the word 'Transfiguration' and butterfly
- 2: Jesus with Peter, James and John
- 3: Moses and Elijah
- 4: Moses on Mt Sinai (hidden in the cleft of the rock)
- 5: Elijah hiding on Mt Horeb
- 6: Peter, James and John looking
- 7: Bright glory cloud
- 8: Scripture: 2 Peter 1:16-18
- 9: Gold crown

**Scene:**

The 'Rinse Right Laundromat'. Signage and pictures of washing machines. A clothesline overhead. Laundry baskets, peg baskets and a table for folding washing.

**Script:**

*(You don't need to memorize this script and feel free to adlib. The numbered flashcards help you remember the story order.)*

Mrs Sudso enters carrying a laundry basket full of clothes and hidden props. She plonks it on the folding table, checks the pegs in her headscarf and then notices the children.

Hello there!

Welcome to the Rinse Right Laundromat.

I'm the proprietor, Mrs Sudso.

There's nothing as satisfying as seeing something dirty  
come up clean and fresh.

Some things are easy to clean.

But others take a good scrubbing!

I've seen some dreadful stains in my time.

Well, here.

Take this football sock for example.

*(Mrs Sudso takes a long pair of tongs from her apron and lifts a dirty football sock from her basket. She carries the sock out to the children and wafts it under their noses. The children will be grossed out! Have some fun with it. Then return the sock to the basket.)*

I know. Smells, doesn't it?

But don't you worry.

The Rinse Right Laundromat will make it clean and bright!

Oh, here's another thing...

(Mrs Sudso uses the tongs to pick up a handkerchief with green goo on it.)

Dear, oh dear.

The state of this snotty handkerchief!

*(Mrs Sudso carries the handkerchief out to the children and again puts it close to them. The kids will be really screaming now! Return the handkerchief to the basket.)*

But don't you worry.

The Rinse Right Laundromat will make it clean and bright!

And then you get the worst stains of all.

*(Mrs Sudso takes a peg from her apron and pegs her nose. She uses the tongs to lift a dirty nappy from the basket.)*

A dirty nappy!

*(Mrs Sudso runs towards the children. Be prepared for screams and for the children to scatter! When you've had enough fun, return the nappy to the basket.)*

But don't you worry.

The Rinse Right Laundromat will make it clean and bright!

I love laundry!

*(Takes a pair of sunglasses from her apron and puts them on)*

Getting colours bright as bright and whites as white as white.

That reminds me of a Bible story I was reading this morning.

*(Take off sunglasses and return to apron pocket)*

Funny name. The Transfiguration! Have you heard of it?

*(Peg flashcard number 1)*

'Transfiguration' means to change from one thing to another...like a caterpillar changes into a butterfly.

Jesus was transfigured right in front of His disciple's eyes.

*(Peg flashcard number 2)*

It all started with Jesus taking Peter, James and John up a mountain to pray.

When they got to the top Jesus' appearance began to change.

First, Jesus face, and second, and this is the part I like best,

His clothes turned dazzling white!

*(Put sunglasses back on)*

His clothes were glaringly, intensely and fiercely bright.

As bright as a flash of lightning!

The Bible says His clothes were whiter than *anyone* could bleach them. Even me!

*(Remove sunglasses)*

*(Peg flashcard number 3)*

Sleepy Peter, James and John were suddenly awake.

Two people appeared and talked to Jesus.

One was Moses and the other was Elijah.

Well, both of these men knew about being in the presence of God's glory, didn't they?

*(Peg flashcard number 4)*

On Mt Sinai Moses asked to see God's glory.

God told Moses, 'You can't see my face, because no one can see me and live.

There is a place where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes that place, I will put you in a large crack (cleft) in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back. But my face must not be seen.'

Later, when Moses came down from the mountain, his face was *shining* because he had talked with the Lord.'

*(Peg flashcard number 5)*

Elijah was God's prophet. He'd been fighting against wicked Queen Jezebel and her false prophets. He'd just had a tremendous victory against them and was on the run. He hid in a cave and was feeling sorry for himself. Elijah told God he was the only one left fighting the Queen. Elijah needed a personal encounter with God. God said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by.'

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face in humility, and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

*(Peg flashcard number 6)*

Back on the mountain, Peter the disciple was so impressed to see Moses and Elijah talking to Jesus, he offered to build three memorials on the mountain where they could visit.

Well, he was frightened, and didn't know what to say and the idea just blurted out.

*(Peg flashcard number 7)*

*(Put on sunglasses)*

But even as he spoke, a bright cloud came and overshadowed them, (God often appears in a cloud of glory) and a voice came out of the cloud, saying,

'This is My dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy. Listen to Him!'

*(Take off sunglasses)*

Next thing, Peter, James and John look around, and Moses, Elijah and the cloud were gone.

Jesus was standing there, and as they came down from the mountain,

He commanded them to tell no one what they had seen until He had risen from the dead.

And they didn't tell anyone until it was written in the Bible.

*(Peg flashcard number 8)*

Peter said, For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw His majestic splendour with our own eyes when He received honour and glory from God the Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to him, 'This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.'

We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

*(2 Peter 1:16-18)*

*(Peg flashcard number 9)*

The disciples saw the glory of Jesus on display! They knew Jesus as a man. He ate with them, he could grow tired or get thirsty. But for just a few amazing minutes they glimpsed Jesus the King, the Son of God!

## Ministry to the Children:

Jesus left his home in heaven and became a man for us because we needed Him. You see, we're all sinners. We aren't clean. *(Isaiah 64:6)* Remember how Holy God is? Moses and Elijah couldn't look at Him and live. We certainly can't stand before a Holy God with all our dirty stains and filthy spots of sin! That's why God sent His dearly loved Son, Jesus, to die on the Cross to take away our sins. By believing in Him and receiving Him into our hearts we can be clean. Not a stain or spot in sight! God says, '...though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. *(Isaiah 1:18)*

I'm good at laundry but even I can't do that!

*(Salvation call)*

## Memory Verse: Washing Line

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Introducing 'Peggy', Mrs Sudso's niece. She needs the children's help to hang up the Memory Verse and in the correct order. She wears an apron, too, but it has an 'L' plate (for Learner) on the front!*

Peggy: Oh hello!  
My name is Peggy.  
Mrs Sudso is my Auntie.  
I'm learning how to operate the Rinse Right Laudromat.  
I've got to hang out this basket of washing but I think I've messed it up!  
Can you help me?

Use second hand or old pieces of clothing for the Memory Verse. Attach a word of the verse and the reference on an article of clothing using Velcro dots or clear contact. Peg the clothes on a length of rope in a jumbled order. The children help peg the words in the correct order and then say the Memory Verse aloud together.

## Game: Towel Toss It

You will need:

- Beach or bath towels (one per team)
- Soft foam ball

What to do:

- Form teams
- Give each team one towel
- Two team members pair up to hold an open towel between them
- They must try and catch the ball in the towel and then toss it back
- Swap out pairs
- The team with the most catches wins

## Craft: Bubble Painting

You will need:

- Dishwashing liquid
- Plastic cups
- Straws
- Tempura paint made up with water
- White paper

What to do:

- Mix half a cup of water with a generous squirt of dishwashing liquid and paint
- Using a straw children blow bubbles in the mixture
- They place their sheet of paper over the top of the bubbles to make an imprint
- Repeat using different colours
- Peg up to dry
- Add the Memory Verse