

## Teen Devotion

### Year C – Transfiguration

#### Uncovered



**One truth shared:** All of the surprising truths about our Savior Jesus and about life in his kingdom are uncovered alone by his Spirit.

*Whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.*

**2 Corinthians 3:16**

### Uncovered by the Spirit

The sky was torn apart, and a voice boomed from heaven. The Spirit descended on Jesus as a dove. John the Baptist must have thought, “I didn’t see that coming.”

“Well, I didn’t see that coming.” How often did that thought occur during the life and ministry of Jesus?

Another time, Mary the mother of Jesus asked him to help at a wedding because they were out of wine. Jesus turned water into wine. How many wedding guests thought, “I didn’t see that coming”?

Jesus called uneducated, untrained fishermen to be his first disciples. They would be the first missionaries of his in the world. Who could have seen that coming?

Jesus warned that a life of following him would not be easy. Rather, the blessed life is enjoyed by those who weep and those who are poor. Jesus called his followers to love enemies and pray for the good of those who persecute them. It’s an upside down, radical, unexpected life. Did you see that coming?

What did the disciples expect when they went with Jesus to pray on that day his outward appearance was changed before them? (We call this his *transfiguration*.) Surely they didn’t expect to see the glory of the divine Christ or Moses and Elijah, famous leaders of the past.

How could they expect this path of the divine Christ to lead to a cross of death but back to life again at an empty grave? How could you? The entire life of Jesus is unexpected and surprising in every way. He never does what we would do. It never happens the way that we’d imagine.

If you believe these things, it means God’s Spirit has removed the veil from your eyes so that you can see. If that’s not you yet, ask God’s Spirit to help you see Jesus as he is in all his surprising ways. Ask for God’s Spirit to help you see more, to understand better, and to believe more deeply all that he has done. And this is the promise of Jesus: “You will see greater things than these” (John 1:50).

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, send me your Holy Spirit so that I can see higher, brighter, and deeper all the things you have done for me and for the world. Fill my heart with longing to see what you will do next. Amen.

## Foundations Teen Facilitators Guide

### Year C – Transfiguration

#### Uncovered

**One truth shared:** All of the surprising truths about our Savior Jesus and about life in his kingdom are uncovered alone by his Spirit.

### Uncovered Love

**Starting the Discussion:** *This first section is intended to be light and easy, to engage and get the conversation going. Have a little fun with these questions.*

- **Three lies and one surprising truth:** Take a moment and think of the craziest thing you've done. Then share with the group four things: that one craziest thing and three other random, crazy things. The group then has to determine what you actually did. *This is a simple, yet fun way to get to know each other in a group.*

**Connecting:** *This section serves as a bridge between the opening conversation and the body of the study/discussion. It should get the group thinking about the topic/text even before they've looked at it.*

*Write down the answers shared below:*

- Imagine you were playing this game with Jesus. What is the craziest thing you think he would tell you that he did?
- What is the most surprising thing he taught? Explain your choice.

**Digging In:** *Here we want to dig into some texts or the text for the day and see what Scripture says. The questions are meant to be open ended to give a beginning of a scriptural conversation. These are a guide for a spiritual and scriptural conversation.*

- Take the list above (or use the list below) and discuss the following questions: 1) What would you have expected in the same situation or in his teaching? 2) What are you learning about Jesus and his work from the event or the teaching?
- Here are some other options for the same discussion. (Most of these are from the gospel accounts we've studied or read during Epiphany.) *You'll have to pick and choose.* Ask the two questions above to discuss more fully a few of the options below.
  - Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:13-17); Jesus turned water into wine (John 2:1-11). Jesus was rejected in his preaching (Luke 4:14-30); Jesus calls uneducated fishermen to follow him (Luke 5:1-11); The blessed life is in poverty, hunger, weeping, etc. (Luke 6:20-26); Jesus calls his disciples to radical love for our enemies (Luke 6:27-36); Jesus is transfigured (Luke 9:28-36).
- Jesus' death and resurrection are perhaps the most surprising. Why?
- All of these things are not only surprising, but they are all necessary. Explain.

**Conclusion:** *Here we want to wrap up the discussion, perhaps circling back to the "connecting question" above.*

- Jesus told Philip, "You will see greater things than these" (John 1:50). What are the greater things we might expect in our life? In our future?