

The Bright Light

Matthew 17:1-13; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 419-425

Did you ever sleep outdoors? Sleeping out is fun—if you have moonlight to see by, or have a flashlight. But being out in the dark can be scary. Once three of Jesus’ disciples saw a bright light at night. Do you think they were afraid?

Once, at the end of a busy day, the disciples were getting ready to rest. But Jesus said to Peter, James, and John, “Come, go

with Me up the mountain.” And He led His three friends to the top of a nearby mountain.

The disciples may have wondered why Jesus took such a long hike at bedtime. They may even have wondered, *Why just us three?* But suddenly they were staring at Jesus. They forgot everything else as they saw Him change right before their eyes.

A dazzling light from heaven fell on Jesus. His face glowed as bright as sunlight

bouncing off a piece of glass. His clothes looked like brand-new satin robes, fit for a king. The light was so bright that the three disciples could not move.

And then, they saw two men, also brightly lit, standing with Jesus. Maybe one was wearing a leather purse as Elijah had worn. Maybe the other carried a rod, as Moses did when leading the Israelites through the Red Sea.

“Elijah? Moses?” the disciples said in wonder. Then they knew without a doubt that indeed Elijah and Moses had come to encourage Jesus.

What a strange and wonderful thing was happening. It seemed too good to be true. Elijah and Moses had come to talk with Jesus! Peter felt that he would burst if he didn’t



The Message

Worship is rejoicing in God's presence.

Memory Verse

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

(Philippians 4:4, NIV).



tell someone. What could he do to celebrate his joy for Jesus?

"Lord, it's good to be here!" Peter's voice was breathless with excitement. "Do You want us to build three shelters? One for You, one for Elijah, and one for Moses?"

Just then a bright cloud came over all of them. The cloud seemed as bright as a million diamonds dancing in rainbow colors.

And out of this dazzling beauty the voice of God spoke. " 'This is My Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him! ' " (Matthew 17:5, NIV). The voice, loud and deep, shook the mountain.

The three disciples fell to the ground. They

may have thought, *Sinners like us do not belong in the presence of God.* And just like any human might, they shut their eyes tightly. What might happen in the presence of their holy God?

The next thing they knew, Jesus was touching them gently. "Get up," He said. "There's nothing to be afraid of."

Peter, James, and John sat up and looked around. Moses and Elijah were gone. The light had faded. Jesus was telling them to walk with Him back down the

mountain.

Maybe the disciples began to discuss what they had seen. But Jesus told them not to talk about it. "Tell no one," He said, " 'until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead' " (Matthew 17:9, NIV).

As they walked back to meet the other disciples, they asked Jesus many questions. He explained to them some of the things they did not understand. As long as they lived, they would never forget the glory they saw that night. They would always remember the joy and awe they felt. They would never forget that they had been in God's presence.



S A B B A T H

READ With your family find a quiet place and read the Bible lesson.

SING Read the memory verse from the Bible (Philippians 4:4), then sing together "Rejoice in the Lord Always."

DO Talk about ways you can have God's presence with you every day. Then thank Him for it.

S U N D A Y

READ During worship today read and discuss Matthew 17:1-8. Then read 2 Corinthians 3:18. Talk about ways you can "reflect the Lord's glory" this week.

SING Sing together, "Jesus Bids Us Shine" (Sing for Joy, No. 133). Pray that God will help you reflect His glory.

MAKE Make 12 mountain peak-shaped cutouts. Color some light at the top of each. Write one word of your memory verse on each. Mix them up and try to put them in order. Save the "mountains" for another day.

M O N D A Y

READ With your family, read Matthew 17:4 for worship today. How did Peter feel about being on the mountain with Jesus? Why do you think Peter wanted to build three shelters?

DRAW Draw a picture of a beautiful church that you would like to build for God. Write your memory verse at the bottom. Thank God for your church.

DO Start planning a special Friday night joyful family worship.

In Jesus' time mothers would take their children to famous rabbis (teachers) to have them blessed.



T U E S D A Y

READ During worship, ask each family member to tell about two things they are happy for. Read Matthew 17:5 together. What other time did God say these words about His Son? (See Matthew 3:17.)

DO Continue planning for Friday evening's joyful worship.

SING Sing the memory verse as a round. Find an instrument to play or spoons to tap together as you sing. Then thank God for happy family times.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE Tell the lesson story to your family during worship today. Arrange your mountain-peak cutouts and say your memory verse. Tell about a time you saw beautiful clouds (sunset, sunrise, etc.).

DO Count the lights in your home. Then thank God for light.

T H U R S D A Y

SHARE During worship today, read Matthew 17:1-3 together. Ask a family member to tell about a time Moses and Elijah were rejected. What might they have said to Jesus to encourage Him as He faced the cross? What can your family learn from Moses and Elijah? Ask each person to find a way to encourage someone today.

DO Arrange your mountain-peak cutouts and say your memory verse. Then sing it together.

DO Finish planning for tomorrow's joyful family worship.

F R I D A Y

DO Lead out in the joyful family worship that you have planned. Include saying or singing your memory verse and presenting your lesson story. Talk about what you will do to find joy in tomorrow's church worship service.

READ Read Psalm 126:3 together. Write something in the "Blessings Book" that you started during last Friday evening's worship. Then sing "Rejoice in the Lord Always" and thank God for those blessings.

PUZZLE

Directions: Draw the people that Peter, James, and John saw talking together on the mountaintop. Write who they are. Have fun coloring your picture.

