

Session 12

New life in Jesus

Bible reference

Mark 9:2-8

How does this session help people grow in Christ?

Change can often seem daunting but, when viewed through the transfiguration of Jesus, we are enabled to see it as a wonderful experience – even though sometimes it can also be terrifying.

Messy team theme

- Discuss how people feel about change: in lifestyle, family commitments, mobility, etc.



Activity

You will need: six jumbo lolly sticks approx. 15 cm x 2 cm; masking tape; small pom-pom balls; narrow double-sided tape; self-adhesive googly eyes; black pipe cleaners; felt-tip pens; scissors

Prepare concertinas of six lolly sticks by taping together three pairs of two lolly sticks. When you have the three pairs completed, place one set of two face upwards then add to them another set of two face down – tape together. Do the same with last set of two. They should now fold into one. There are various YouTube clips if you need help.

On the day, run a strip of double-sided tape across the top stick of your concertina; place pom poms on the tape to form a caterpillar. Complete with black pipe-cleaner antennae and googly eyes. Draw and colour in a butterfly on the remaining five sticks. If desired, do the same on the reverse.

Celebration

You might choose one of the following:

Use the story 'A life without colour' to illustrate the biblical passage. Everything is in God's perfect timing, as was Jesus' transfiguration. The disciples will have struggled to take in and to understand what was unfolding before them, as indeed we do when things happen that will inevitably change our lives.

Discuss holding an event for Children in Need or other suggested charity and talk about how lives are transformed as a result of what is raised. Tell a life-changing story from a charity website.

Song suggestions

All heaven declares
 All things bright and beautiful
 Be still, for the presence of the Lord
 Lord, the light of your love (Shine, Jesus, shine)
 Great is thy faithfulness
 Jesus, you are changing me
 Breathe on me, breath of God
 Immortal, invisible, God only wise
 All things praise thee, Lord most high
 For the beauty of the earth
 Lord of all hopefulness

A life without colour

from 'Searching' Girl Guides handbook

A gardener one day noticed a chrysalis attached to the outside wall of his tool shed. He kept a close watch on it, until he noticed that the chrysalis had begun to open.

He pulled up a stool, sat and patiently waited. The split gradually grew longer and wider and, eventually, the head of the emerging butterfly appeared. For the next hour, the man sat transfixed as he observed the tremendous struggle put up by the insect as it fought to free itself from its leathery prison. At last, with a mighty twist, the butterfly was free, and slowly unfolded its wings to dry in the sun. As he watched, a gentle smile lit up the gardener's face as he saw the wings take on the most lovely and glorious colours; and then the butterfly flew away.

A year later, the same man came across another chrysalis, which was beginning to split, and he decided to help matters on a little. Fetching a razor blade, he very gently and carefully split the chrysalis open, allowing the butterfly to emerge with complete ease. The creature spread its wings to dry and flew away. But, there was one big difference between the butterflies: the second had no colour in its wings.

The gardener recognised he had interrupted God's plan and that a life without a struggle can be a life without colour.

