

**Worship Material**  
**The importance of witness and telling**  
**Materials from Roots Bible Study**  
**Sunday 11th February**

**Begin with an opening prayer**

God of all ages, in expectation we come together to hear the stories of your people long ago, and to be inspired by them.

In humility, we come to hear the words of your prophets, to be challenged by them.

In confidence, we come to learn how to grow into our own story, and to share it.

In joy, we come to appreciate the stories of those around us, and affirm them.

In unity, we come celebrate your love for each of us and for our world.

**Amen.**

**Read Mark 9:2-9**

**Bible notes**

Six days after he's taught them about his mission, three of Jesus' disciples are given a glimpse of his past and future glory. The word used to describe the complete change that comes over Jesus is the word from which we get metamorphosis. The words recall Daniel 7:9, indicating that Jesus is glorious indeed, since in Daniel the words used are the 'Ancient One' (a name for God) rather than the Son of Man.

This account of the transfiguration is told entirely from the disciples' perspective: what they saw and how they reacted. They see Jesus and two towering Old Testament figures – Elijah and Moses – talking together. While these two could represent the Law and the Prophets, the sweep of Israel's story so far, it is more likely that they are seen as the 'deathless ones', those who Jewish-inspired hope associated with the coming of God's kingdom. This becomes clear in verses 11-13.

Peter starts rambling because he's scared stiff and doesn't know what to make of it all. One thing's for sure, this is not a time for erecting tents! It is possible he thinks that the suffering has been by-passed and the glory has unexpectedly arrived for good. It is God who clarifies things. In the cloud – a common image of his presence – God's voice restates for the disciples what

was said only to Jesus at his baptism (1:10-11). The one they've followed for the past year is so much greater than everyone who's come before him – even the Old Testament giants present on the mountain. He is God's Son. So the disciples should listen to everything he says. God wants them to pay particular attention to what's just been said about how Jesus' messianic mission involves rejection, suffering, death and resurrection.

## Prayer

### A prayer of thanksgiving

God of our setting out and of our arriving,  
we rejoice that, wherever we go, you go with us.  
When we journey together, you bless us with fellowship.  
When we journey alone, you bless us with courage.  
When we journey in the footsteps of others, you bless us with gratitude.  
When we journey to new places, you bless us with faith.  
And when we make our last journey, you bless us with the knowledge that we  
are safe within your  
eternal love – thank you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### A prayer to conclude

We go out into the world in peace  
as links in the chain of faith;  
may we be brave witnesses,  
sharing through word and deed  
the revelations we have received.  
**Amen.**