

Assembly for Lent: 'Listen to him'

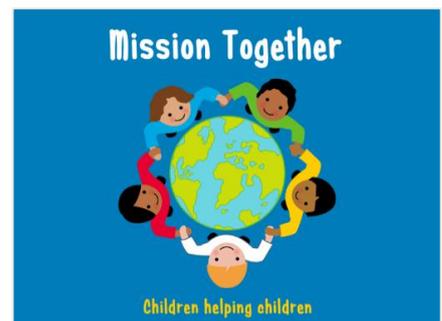


LEADER'S NOTES

This presentation lasts up to 20 minutes. We recommend you deliver the whole assembly **but please feel free to use the material as time and circumstances allow**. This PowerPoint uses animations. It is advisable to run through the assembly before you present to your pupils.

This assembly has been prepared by **Mission Together**, the Pope's official children's charity for overseas mission. **Mission Together** is the children's branch of **Missio**. 97% of money donated to **Mission Together** by children goes directly towards our work supporting children overseas. Although all projects are Church-backed, we follow Christ's example – helping everyone in need, regardless of background or belief

HOLDING SLIDE



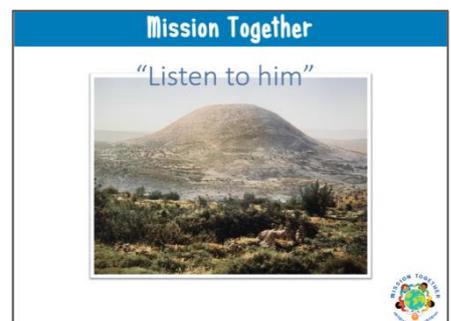
SLIDE TWO

Ask the children to look at the picture of the mountain on the slide.

Question: Has anyone been up a mountain?

If not, using the picture on the slide to help, can they guess what it might be like at the top of a mountain?

Answers might be: Awesome, lonely, scary, wonderful, silent, still.



The mountain shown on the slide is well known. It is Mount Tabor in the Holy Land. One day Jesus took his close friends, Peter, James and John up the mountain with him. While they were at the top, something wonderful happened to Jesus and Peter, James and John heard God's voice speak to them. This is what God said:

[Click to reveal on screen...](#) **"Listen to him"**

We will hear the whole story later. It is one we hear in church during Lent.

Question: Does anyone know what we mean by Lent and why it is a special time for Christians?

Answer: It begins the day after Pancake Tuesday, on Ash Wednesday and it lasts for 40 days. In Lent we think about how Jesus helped people to understand how much they are loved by God.

At the end of Lent, on Maundy Thursday, we remember how Jesus suffered and died for us. When Jesus rose from the tomb on Easter Sunday, he showed us that when somebody dies we don't have to stay sad or worried, because they have gone to join Jesus in heaven, where they will live in God's love forever.

SLIDE THREE

In Lent, Christians make a special effort to spend more time doing three things that were important to Jesus.

Question: Does anyone know what these three things are?

[Click to reveal answer on screen.](#)

Answer: Prayer. Fasting. Sharing (acts of charity).

Fasting is an unusual word.

Question: Can anybody tell us what it means?

Answer: Giving up something.

People often 'fast' from things they enjoy in Lent, like chocolate or TV. Jesus didn't ask us to give up things because he was a spoil-sport. He was trying to encourage us to live simply and to think less about what *we want*, and more about what *others might need*.

Sometimes it is not easy to give up what we want; nor to understand what others might need. In the story about Jesus on Mount Tabor we hear how God's words can help us.

SLIDE FOUR

Read the Gospel passage, or ask a pupil(s) to read.

Jesus led Peter and James and his brother John up a high mountain where they could be alone.

There Jesus was transfigured: his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light.

Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared; they were talking to him. Then a bright cloud covered them with shadow.

Click to reveal next section of text.

A voice from the cloud said,

“This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased. Listen to him.”

When they heard this, the disciples fell down, overcome with fear. But Jesus came up to them, touched them and said,

“Stand up. Do not be afraid.”

When they looked up they saw no one but only Jesus.

Matthew 17:1-8 (Adapted from the Jerusalem Bible).

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SLIDE FIVE

Just before this event happened, Jesus had told his disciples that he would suffer, die and be raised to new life.

His disciples had not understood and were very sad.

They did not want their friend to die.

So that he might encourage them, Jesus took his close friends, Peter, James and his brother John, up the mountain. Here Jesus was ‘transfigured’. This means that he was changed.

Using the picture on the slide to help them, ask if the children can remember how Jesus changed?

Answer: His face shone and he became white like a light.

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Jesus is changed



FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Ask the children who was Jesus speaking to?

Answer: Moses and Elijah.

Explain that they were both great Prophets from the Old Testament. A prophet proclaims the word of God. The children may remember that it was Moses to whom God gave the Ten Commandments. Elijah is less well known but God performed miracles through Elijah at a time when many people had turned away from God and Elijah helped to bring people back to God.

Jesus proclaimed the word of God but he is greater than Moses and Elijah - he is the Son of God.

Question: Whose voice spoke to Peter, James and John?

Answer: It was God's voice and he said that Jesus is his Son.

Question: God tells Peter, James and John to do something very important. What was it?

Answer: He tells them to listen to Jesus.

Peter, James and John continued to listen to Jesus and they never forgot what they saw and heard at the top of Mount Tabor. Just as Jesus had planned, their faith was strengthened. Many years later, after Jesus had died and returned to Heaven, they wrote about their experience for all the world to know. These words are now contained in the Bible.

Listening to God's Son, Jesus, is important for us too. Let's meet some children who listen to Jesus every day.

SLIDE SIX

Let's go to Jordan! Jordan is a small country in the Middle East. The Middle East is where Jesus lived; it is also a place where many countries have recently experienced war and fighting.

But Jordan is a safe country and a lot of the people who have to flee their homes in other parts of the Middle East travel to Jordan.



SLIDE SEVEN

These children are refugees in Jordan. They had to run away from their homes in Iraq because it was too dangerous to stay.

As they left in a hurry they could only bring what they could carry.

When they arrived in Jordan's capital city, Amman, they did not know anyone and they had nowhere to stay. They were sad, tired and scared.

But Fr Khalil, the parish priest in Amman, welcomed the families. He found them somewhere to stay and, with help from Mission Together, the children attend Marka School for Iraqi Refugees where they learn their lessons and have something to eat.



SLIDE EIGHT

At school the children pray every day. They thank God for what they have.

Question: What things might the children be grateful for?

Answer: Safety, their lives, shelter, food, school, their families.

Prayer is a conversation. Like any conversation we have with our friends, we talk and we listen. The children at Marka do what God has asked of them – they listen to Jesus. Here they are in the photo on the right of the screen, listening to Jesus.

Children here in England and Wales also listen to Jesus. The children in the photo on the left of the screen are at a **Mission Together** Mass with their bishop. They prayed for children around the world who have less than they have, like those at Marka School in Jordan. They also listened to Jesus' words in the readings and they listened to their bishop talking about Jesus.

The children know that by talking and listening to Jesus often they can follow him more easily and, with his help, they can make a big difference to others living in poverty across the world.



SLIDE NINE

Mission Together children around the world are 'children helping children'.

Like Peter, James and John, they listen to Jesus and follow his teachings.

So this Lent, can you join them...

- With your prayers,
- By being kind and
- By fasting

So that children living in poverty around the world, like the children at Marka School, Jordan, can have what they need.



SLIDE TEN

Let's end our assembly and start our Lenten actions now by saying together the **Mission Together** prayer for children like those living in Jordan and around the world.

Mission Together Prayer:

May all children
In the world
Share love
Share friendship and live
In the peace
Of God's love.
Now and forever.
Amen



Glossary

A prophet: someone who proclaimed the word of God

A refugee: someone who is forced to leave their home due to war, persecution or natural disaster

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For more information about our Together in Jordan campaign, please visit missiontogether.org.uk