

“Good News for a New Year”

Brainstorming Summary

Focus: The Gospel of Mark

Jan. 10 – Feb. 14, 2021 (six weeks)

Members present: Carole Koch, Barb Gripton, Jim Post, Karen Post, Pastor Mary, Diane Thompson, Betty Kinney, Dave Booth, Karen Booth

2021 theme: Still Blessed

2021 theme connection/synopsis: Everyone needs good news. The Good News is needed more than anything. The Gospel of Mark wastes no time getting to the truth: We are blessed because God is here, God is our side in our shared humanity, God is passionate to save us, and the whole world is radically different because Jesus breaks down barriers between us and God and between us and others.

Key words: Reset, Resist (temptation)

Scripture: The Gospel of Mark (from the lectionary – Year B)

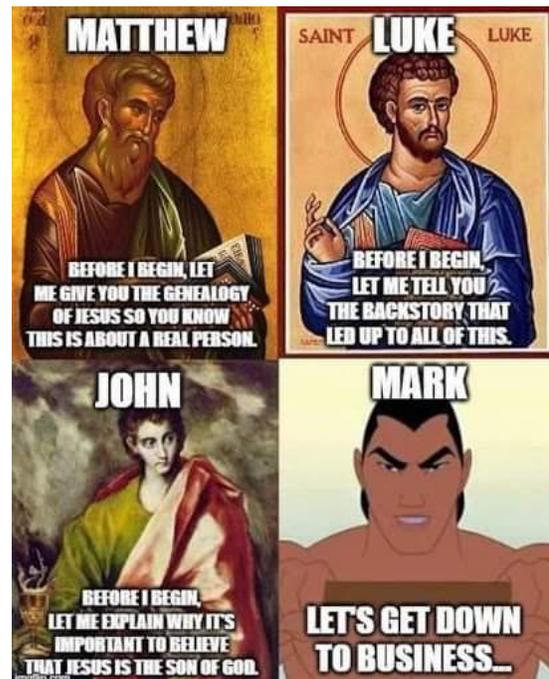
The Gospel According to Mark has no story of Jesus’s birth. Instead, Mark’s story begins by describing Jesus’s adult life, introducing it with the words, “The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God...” (1:1). As a result of its proximity to original sources, the Gospel of Mark has transformed from a book disregarded for its lowly prose to one of the most important books in the New Testament. Its historical importance has affected its evaluation by literary scholars as well. Though crude and terse, the Gospel of Mark is vivid and concrete. Action dominates. A dramatic sense of urgency is present, and Mark has a developed sense of irony that permeates the Gospel.

(<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/newtestament/section2/>)

Related information: The Gospel of Mark was probably used as a source for the writers of Luke and Matthew. Those writers fleshed out their stories. **Related meme** – above right.

Ideas related to 2021 theme:

- Are You Ready for 2021? Reset. Remember/Recall. Reflect. Renew. Refocus. Revival, Reinvent. Re-do. Reevaluate. Resilient. Rebirth. Regret. Respond. Reverse.



- What do we do after the “dumpster fire” year that was 2020? There have been so many layers of stuff – not seeing friends/family/congregation, COVID-19, job loss, weird school situation, social unrest, fires, election craziness, church hypocrisy, crisis fatigue, and more. Go back to basics. Make Lake Harbor a “safe harbor.” Realize that God still blesses everyone, even in messes. Recognize that sanctuary is an atmosphere, not a place. We need a Love-demic not a pandemic.
- Theme song: “The Blessing” – **use as an ending song for the series?** Sheet music and children’s resources (video with hand motions) available: <https://www.ignitermedia.com/collections/65222-the-blessing>.
- Hands-on item: What can we hand out to remind people of the 2021 theme?

Notes for series:

- Epiphany means “manifestation,” and we celebrate the coming of Christ for all people – and remember that the magi were the first Gentiles to worship Jesus.
- Epiphany is about seeing Christ, about the manifestation of Messiah in the person of Jesus.
- Christ’s ministry in Mark’s Gospel is one of word and action; preaching and healing; offering people health and salvation. This, too, is the ministry of the church.
- Jesus is constantly breaking down barriers that have put up by human sin – especially encountering people who were ostracized by society (those with evil spirits, etc.)
- Visual for the series (mixed in with visuals for January 24): <https://www.pinterest.com/lynandlid/good-news-for-a-good-year-visuals-%2B-follow-me/>
- Ideas for the **sanctuary visuals** are found on the last page of this document.

Additional resources:

- <https://s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/gbod-assets/worship-series/Follow-Me-Series-PDF.pdf>
- <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1910/mark-9-week-reading-plan-and-sermon-series>
- <https://lmpc.org/series/the-gospel-of-mark-the-person-and-purpose-of-jesus/>
- <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/follow-me>
- “The Book of Mark: An Introduction.” Length: 3:22. Cost: \$19.98. The Gospel of Mark seeks to answer the question, “How can Jesus’ death be good news?” In the aftermath of Jesus’ crucifixion, people were wondering how Jesus could have been the promised Messiah if he died on a cross. Mark answers this question by showing how everything Jesus did in his life prepares us for and informs us about his death. <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-illustrations/86817/the-book-of-mark-an-introduction> Related still image: <https://www.sermonspice.com/sermon-slides/86831/the-book-of-mark--fence-2>

Ideas for the series:

- Create a reading plan for the Gospel of Mark that lasts for six weeks.

- Show a “Faith in Film” movie (or encourage people to watch it at home) during this series? Possibilities: *Just Mercy*, *Selma*, or *All Saints*. **Comments:** All three of these films integrate social justice issues into their stories.
 - **Just Mercy** (Jan. 10, 2020) PG-13. Just Mercy shadows world-renowned civil rights defense attorney Bryan Stevenson as he recounts his experiences and details the case of a condemned death row prisoner whom he fought to free. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVQbeG5yW78>
 - **Selma** (2014) PG-13. The film tracks a dangerous and terrifying three-month campaign led by Martin Luther King Jr. which culminated in the epic march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. The campaign galvanized American public opinion and persuaded President Johnson to introduce the Voting Rights Act, protecting Africa-Americans’ right to vote. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BWKaq80cKSA>
 - **All Saints** (2017) PG. Based on a true story, a salesman-turned-pastor Michael Spurlock of a tiny Episcopal (Anglican) church in [Smyrna, Tennessee](#) is ordered to shut it down. He attempts to save the church, as well as a group of refugees from Karen State, Myanmar, in Southeast Asia. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=laMflvCTY-o>

January 10, 2021: “Tearing Apart the Heavens”

Baptism of the Lord

Scripture: Mark 1: 4-11 (NIV)

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, ² as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”—

³ “a voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Synopsis: Worship is a celebration; this is the beginning of a new year. We survived 2020, and while there might still be lingering effects, it is time to embrace a new possibility and a new hope. The heavens have been torn open – not as a threat, but as a promise of something new and something better.

Felt need: To commit/re-commit ourselves to a closer walk with Christ and remember our baptism in order to renew us for mission and ministry as followers of Jesus.

Visuals: water, dove. For more ideas check out Lynne’s pins:

<https://www.pinterest.com/lynandlid/epiphany-sunday-2021/>. There are many artistic portrayals of Jesus’ baptism. We might want to use some of that art.

Hands-on item:

Activity: Sacrament of Holy Baptism and/or Reaffirmation of Baptism. **Comments:** We’ve had several babies born and waiting to be baptized since March when we started livestreaming worship.

“We are now the visible evidence of the presence of Christ in the world. When we claim the new life that we embrace at our baptism, we live the light that we proclaim. We are the witness to the activity of the Lord in the midst of the present-day reality.”

Media possibilities:

- “Mark 1: 1-15.” Length: 3:07 (could be trimmed to 2:08). Cost: Free. Visual liturgy from Lumo Project. <https://www.bible.com/videos/25003-mark-1-1-15?collection=4>. **Comments:** This is a very visual passage. Use the clip, trimmed to the appropriate length.

Music: Spirit of the Living God (UMH 393)

Children’s Time: Use keys for weekly key word – BAPTIZE, BAPTISM – end with *Jesus Loves Me*

Worship Leader:

Discussion points: 1) Use story on pg. 30 of *Forbid Them Not*, Year B – girl smiling back at God:

The story recalls the ugliness surrounding school integration. An 8-year-old girl smiled after a white woman called her a horrible name. The woman asked why she was smiling. The little girl said God was smiling at her (like he smiles on us when we are baptized). The woman was stunned. 2) Over the weekend in the Washington DC area, two churches with Black Lives Matter signs were vandalized. Here are three articles from different perspectives: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/12/15/dc-metropolitan-ame-church-vandalized-blm-sign/> (written by one of the pastors),

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-vandalism-of-dcs-black-churches-is-sickening-it-must-be-prosecuted/2020/12/14/e510647c-3e44-11eb-8bc0-ae155bee4aff_story.html, https://michiganumc.org/standing-in-solidarity-with-asbury-umc/?utm_source=%2ANEW+Master+List&utm_campaign=7de2889abb-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_08_01_02_55_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_98bd0b5296-7de2889abb-411940188 (our UM Conference). 3) Epiphany is about seeing Christ, about the manifestation of Messiah in the person of Jesus. 4) Jesus is the only one who hears God’s voice in this gospel. His disciples hear it at his transfiguration.

January 17, 2021: “Anything Good?”

MLK, Jr. Day weekend/Human Relations Day

Epiphany 2

Scripture: John 1: 43-51 (MSG) – also may ref. I Samuel 3 (Samuel and Eli)

⁴³⁻⁴⁴ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. When he got there, he ran across Philip and said, “Come, follow me.” (Philip’s hometown was Bethsaida, the same as Andrew and Peter.)

⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶ Philip went and found Nathanael and told him, “We’ve found the One Moses wrote of in the Law, the One preached by the prophets. It’s *Jesus*, Joseph’s son, the one from Nazareth!” Nathanael said, “Nazareth? You’ve got to be kidding.”

But Philip said, “Come, see for yourself.”

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw him coming he said, “There’s a real Israelite, not a false bone in his body.”

⁴⁸ Nathanael said, “Where did you get that idea? You don’t know me.”

Jesus answered, “One day, long before Philip called you here, I saw you under the fig tree.”

⁴⁹ Nathanael exclaimed, “Rabbi! You are the Son of God, the King of Israel!”

⁵⁰⁻⁵¹ Jesus said, “You’ve become a believer simply because I say I saw you one day sitting under the fig tree? You haven’t seen anything yet! Before this is over you’re going to see heaven open and God’s angels descending to the Son of Man and ascending again.”

NOTE: This reading could be done as a dramatic reading (using The VOICE translation) - <https://classic.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John1:43-51&version=VOICE>

Synopsis: “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” We hear the **sarcasm** – and perhaps even a hint of prejudice in Nathanael’s. Perhaps we even hear ourselves. Facing our personal prejudices and being honest about our struggles is vital to growing as disciples of Jesus who understand that every human being is created in God’s image and can be used as a channel for God’s work.

Felt need: To admit our tendency to prejudge others – and to claim that there is good in others and in ourselves.

Visuals: Mirror (can anything good come from the face I see in front of me?). Lynne’s pins: <https://www.pinterest.com/lynandlid/anything-good-out-of-nazareth/>

Hands-on item: Cheap pocket mirror with a clear sticker message from the sermon. Possible online sources: www.nicepricefavors.com/, www.weddingfavorsunlimited.com/, www.4imprint.com/, www.amazon.com/. Other possibility: Use Mylar to make mirrors.

Activity:

Media possibilities: We would lean towards doing a dramatic reading instead of using this.

- “John 1: 29-51.” Length: 4:05 (could use 2:38 to 4:05). Cost: Free. Visual liturgy from Lumo Project. <https://www.bible.com/videos/25073-john-1-29-51?collection=9>

Music: Be Thou My Vision (UMH 451), The Summons (FWS 2130)

Children’s Time: Use keys for weekly key word – TRUTH – end with *Jesus Loves Me*

Worship Leader:

Discussion points: 1) Inauguration Day is Jan. 20. Related media: “A Prayer for America.”

Length: 2:02. Cost: Free with our subscription. There has never been a greater need in our nation than there is today, for prayer. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/39280/a-prayer-for-america> 2) This might be a good week to reference one or all of the films on page 2. 3) Verses 45-46: Is it a far cry to say, “Muskegon Heights? You’ve got to be kidding.” 4) From Pinterest: It is never too late to give up your prejudices. 5) Understanding/acknowledging the role of privilege. 6) Examples of the importance of understanding a culture: *Hillbilly Elegy* by JD Vance (book), “Hillbilly Elegy” with Glenn Close

(movie now on Netflix), Pastor Mary and Greg Beaudoin’s experience at Henderson Settlement, and Jim Post’s experience growing up in Indiana (being told about the hillbillies in Kentucky – “don’t go there”). 7) Carole: Normal is just a setting on a washing machine. 8) Pastor Mary has seen 20 years watching struggles in every family and has seen both immediate judgment and compassion. Prime example: A 19-year-old was jailed as part of a sex sting. People’s comments: It could have been my kid. Related topic: Visiting people in jail is the hardest thing she has done. 9) FB quotes from Pastor Mary’s friend: “Comparing your everyday drudgery to someone else’s highlight reel...” (note from KWB: I didn’t get the whole thing written down).

January 24, 2021: “Follow Me”

Epiphany 3

Scripture: Mark 1: 14-20 (NIV)

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

Jesus Calls His First Disciples

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

Synopsis: Following Jesus is not simply about a state of being, but a call to doing. We need Christian education and spiritual formation as we continue to grow in faith, but we maintain an outward focus – always looking for ways to connect with others and widen the net.

Felt need: To claim our call as “fishers of people” who offer connection, have influence, and give support in Jesus’ name

Visuals: fishing pole, net. Comics from Ivan: 1. You have 12 followers. 2. Simon/Peter business cards.

Hands-on item:

Activity: Lift up connections with our community – education, civic leaders, first responders

Media possibilities:

- “Mark 1: 16-45.” Length: 5:10 (Could be trimmed to 0:50). Cost: Free. Visual liturgy by Lumo Project. <https://www.bible.com/videos/25004-mark-1-16-45?collection=4>
- “Leave: Follow.” Length: 1:46. Cost: Free with our subscription. Just as Jesus called Peter, John, and Matthew to leave what they knew to follow him, he calls us to the same challenge. What do you need to leave behind to follow Jesus? Topics include: calling, discipleship, salvation, idols, commitment. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/43715/leave-follow>. **Comments:** This is a contemporary take on this passage. It would need to be narrated. Big question from Diane, Betty, and Dave: Why do we have to

give things up? Response: The gospels were written with the belief that Jesus would be coming back very soon. There was no time to waste. We have lost some of that urgency.

- “I Followed.” Length: 1:29. Cost: Free with our subscription. Sometimes we don’t know what we are looking for, but if we truly follow the teaching of Christ, we can find what we should have been looking for the whole time. <https://www.playbackmedia.com/mini-movies/26084/i-followed> **Comments:** This might be better as a script with someone from the congregation speaking. Suggested volunteer: Brad Hilleary.

Music: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus (FWS 2129), Cry of My Heart (FWS 2165), Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore (UMH 344) – sing some verses in Spanish

Children’s Time: Use keys for weekly key word – FOLLOW – end with *Jesus Loves Me*

Worship Leader:

Discussion points: 1) Why did Jesus change Simon’s name to Peter? Peter means rock. Building on a rock assures a firm foundation. A new name signifies a new identity also. 2) In response to the video “Leave: Follow”: What is the rightful place of the other stuff we do? Related question the Board of Ordained Ministry asks candidates, “What do you have to leave behind to follow Jesus?” 3) “I can worship in nature (or from the golf course....).” No, Jesus calls us into community and being in community is hard. 4) What can we do as followers of Jesus? We have a huge problem with idolatry, especially money, other people, smart phones/social media, etc. 5) Can some of the activities described in “Leave: Follow” be part of the Sabbath? 6) Even the disciples struggled with following Jesus. They left what was known for something new which included Jesus’ work with healing the sick, driving out demons, and talk of his impending death. 7) “Follow me” is a call to make the net wider.

January 31, 2021: “What’s Your Business?”

Epiphany 4

Scripture: Mark 1: 21-28 (MSG)

²¹⁻²² Then they entered Capernaum. When the Sabbath arrived, Jesus lost no time in getting to the meeting place. He spent the day there teaching. They were surprised at his teaching—so forthright, so confident—not quibbling and quoting like the religion scholars.

²³⁻²⁴ Suddenly, while still in the meeting place, he was interrupted by a man who was deeply disturbed and yelling out, “What business do you have here with us, Jesus? Nazarene! I know what you’re up to! You’re the Holy One of God, and you’ve come to destroy us!”

²⁵⁻²⁶ Jesus shut him up: “Quiet! Get out of him!” The afflicting spirit threw the man into spasms, protesting loudly—and got out.

²⁷⁻²⁸ Everyone there was incredulous, buzzing with curiosity. “What’s going on here? A new teaching that does what it says? He shuts up defiling, demonic spirits and sends them packing!” News of this traveled fast and was soon all over Galilee.

NOTE: This reading could be done as a dramatic reading (using The VOICE translation - <https://classic.biblegateway.com/passages/?search=mark+1%3A+21-28&version=VOICE>).

Synopsis: We know the presence of evil is real, and there are times when we feel helpless against it in our lives, for our loved ones, and in our world. But we can claim good news that we're not left on our own to fight against it. We worship a power and a presence greater than all that is broken around us and within us.

Felt need: To celebrate the help and hope we have in Christ to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever form they present themselves.

Visuals: Lynne's pins - <https://www.pinterest.com/lynandlid/whats-your-business-jan-31-2021/>

Hands-on item: Maybe print out one of the pins?

Activity: Lift up recovery ministry and all who work in mental health care

Media possibilities:

- "Mark 1:16-45." Length: 5:10 (could use from 0:50 to 1:58). Cost: Free. Visual liturgy by Lumo Project. <https://www.bible.com/videos/25004-mark-1-16-45?collection=4>

Comments: It doesn't seem very plausible that the man with the demon was in the synagogue while Jesus was teaching. Wouldn't he have been ostracized?

Music: "God's Not Done with You" by Tauren Wells; "In Christ Alone"

Resource:

Children's Time: Use keys for weekly key word – PROMISE – end with *Jesus Loves Me*

Worship Leader:

Discussion points: 1) The title is an indication that Jesus cares about our struggles. We don't want to equate evil with mental health (or make judgements about mental health), something churches have done and continue to do to this day. Related note: We still have churches who believe only Jesus can heal mental illness. We believe he can heal, but sometimes it takes the form of leading someone to a doctor and receiving the right meds. 2) This is a story of Jesus healing, overcoming evil, and teaching with authority. 3) People who have been healed are brought back into community. 4) Pastor Mary's has had many conversations about loved ones' struggles (addictions, separation, mental health, isolation). Aside from prayer, what can we do? This is a call to let people know they can reach out to help. Others can reach out to those who struggle. 5) Mental health struggles are real and this pandemic has exacerbated problems. Examples: Pastor Mary/panic attack. Betty's California grandchildren/isolation. Teens/roller coaster of emotions/judgement issues. 6) Big questions: Who do we trust to talk to? Are we that person for someone else? 7) Karen Post: Compassion, awareness, honesty.

February 7, 2021: "She Began to Serve"

Epiphany 5

Scripture: Mark 1: 29-39 (NIV)

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they immediately told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had

various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.

³⁵Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷and when they found him, they exclaimed: “Everyone is looking for you!”

³⁸Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.” ³⁹So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.

Synopsis: Service is a part of our faith life – and our faith commitment. We celebrate service – not as a call to take on more ourselves, but to be aware of and grateful for those who serve us every day.

Felt need: To cultivate a spirit of gratitude for those who serve us and to continue to serve others.

Visuals: Lynne’s pins - <https://www.pinterest.com/lynandlid/feb7-2021-she-began-to-serve/>

Hands-on item: Small package of life savers to give to someone else.

Activity: Holy Communion (drive-thru), Souper Bowl of Caring, prayers/tangible blessing for “essential” workers

Media possibilities:

- “Mark 1:16-45.” Length: 5:10 (could use from 1:58 to 3:05). Cost: Free. Visual liturgy by Lumo Project. <https://www.bible.com/videos/25004-mark-1-16-45?collection=4>

Music: Lord of All Hopefulness (FWS 2197), Lord of the Dance (UMH 261)

Resource:

Children’s Time: Use keys for weekly key word – HEAL – end with *Jesus Loves Me*

Worship Leader:

Discussion points: 1) This is another healing story. 2) Service is a part of our life as Christians. 3) Jesus takes time to pray and go away (Sabbath). 4) Lynne: There are suggestion on the Pinterest board for a tangible thank you for “essential workers.” I personally have a problem about using that term, as it usually refers to medical professionals. I have heard several non-frontline people refer to themselves as essential as they had to work to put food on their table. Examples from the group present: HVAC workers, plumbers, grocers. Ironic note: Tru Green workers could fertilize and spray for bugs, but lawn care workers could mow grass this spring.

February 14, 2021: “Only Jesus”

Transfiguration Sunday/ Valentine’s Day

Scripture: Mark 9: 2-9 (NIV)

²After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵ Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

⁷ Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

Synopsis: We stand with Peter, James, and John in open-mouthed wonder when Jesus is transfigured on the mountaintop. He is fully human and fully divine – and more than we can totally comprehend. So we stand in awe and praise and seek to stay close to him, listen to him, and follow his way of love and power.

Felt need: To keep our focus on Jesus and his call on our lives

Visuals: Color – white. Lights – candles, flashlights, cell phone lights. Lynne’s pins - <https://www.pinterest.com/lynandlid/transfiguration-feb142021/> (includes lots of artwork).

Hands-on item:

Activity:

Media possibilities: This would be another good time to use the

- “Mark 9: 1-29.” Length: 4:51 (could use from 0:26 to 1:53ish). Cost: Free. Visual liturgy by Lumo Project. <https://www.bible.com/videos/25017-mark-9-1-29?collection=4>

Music: How Great Thou Art (UMH 77), Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus (UMH 349), We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding (FWS 2103), You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd (WS 3043); “Only Jesus” by Casting Crowns

Children’s Time: Use keys for weekly key word – LOVE (Valentine’s Day) – end with *Jesus Loves Me*

Worship Leader:

Discussion points: 1) Other key word possibilities – WONDER, AWE. 2) Lynne: There are many artistic renditions of the transfiguration of Jesus that might be used at some point during the service. 3) This happens in the middle of Mark’s gospel. After this he is headed towards Jerusalem and his death. 4) The disciples hear God’s voice this time. 5) How did Peter know who was with Jesus? 6) Why didn’t Jesus’ clothes stay white after he came down? 7) Like Peter, Pastor Mary would rather stay on the mountain top where there wasn’t a mob of people. 7) Why didn’t Jesus take all of the disciples?

NOTE: Should we offer a reaffirmation of marriage vows? The last one was in 2016.

Sanctuary Visuals – will be swapped out on January 4

- Dawn: new possibilities, soft colors (pink, gold)
- Write out GOOD NEWS or GOOD NEWS FOR A NEW YEAR
- The R words need to be seen/used during the series – maybe on a photo card.

- Here are some ideas for banners.
Tentative plan:
 - “Dawn” background – roll blue, pink, and orange paint on the drop cloth blending one color into another to create a shaded ombre effect.
 - Letters – option 1 – Cut out contact paper letters. Place them on the drop cloth before painting then peel them off after the paint is dry. We might have to touch up the letters if paint seeps under the edges.
 - Letters – option 2 – Paint the drop cloth. Cut out contact paper letter. Place them on top of the dried paint. We would have to check to see that the letters stick to dry paint.
- Cost estimate:
 - \$22 for 6’x9’ cloth and contact paper plus the cost of the paint.
 - \$31 for 9’x12’ cloth and contact paper plus the cost of the paint.
- Schedule:
 - Dec. 21 at 1:00 pm – finalize plans
 - Dec. 28 at 1:00 pm – paint the drop cloth
 - Jan. 3 (maybe) – Unhanging of the Greens
 - Jan. 4 at 1:00 pm – hang the banner and add other visuals

