

## Bible Challenge - February 1-7, 2016

### INTRODUCTION

*Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus will be unable to avoid reflecting that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see the glory of the Lord in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by the Spirit of God.*

### FIRST READING: Exodus 34:29-35

*Moses' face shone with the reflected glory of God after he received the ten commandments on Mount Sinai. The sight caused the Israelites to be afraid, so Moses wore a veil to mask the radiance of God's glory, taking it off when he spoke directly with God.*

**Adventure Challenge:** Exodus 34

**Explorer Challenge:** Research "the veil of Moses" to see how it has been used and interpreted in theology, art, and literature.

### PSALM: Psalm 99

*Proclaim the greatness of the LORD; worship upon God's holy hill. (Ps. 99:9)*

**Adventure Challenge:** Psalm 99.

**Explorer Challenge:** *Option A.* Research any word or phrase you don't understand or seems unusual.  
*Option B.* Compare Psalm 99 with Psalm 98.

### SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

*In his debates with the Corinthians, Paul contrasts the glory of Moses with the glory of Christ. The Israelites could not see Moses' face because of the veil. But in Christ we see the unveiled glory of God and are transformed into Christ's likeness.*

**Adventure Challenge:** 2 Corinthians 3 – 4:2

**Explorer Challenge:** *Option A.* Try to determine what Paul is referring to when he speaks of "such a hope." In verse 12.

*Option B.* Chapter 3 contains an elaborate comparison (using a literary device known as argument by comparison). Try writing out what comparisons or analogies Paul is making to better understand his ideas.

### GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

*The conversation about Jesus' suffering and death is enclosed in a dazzling foreshadowing of the resurrection. God affirms Jesus' identity, the disciples are stunned speechless, and Jesus resumes his mission with a demonstration of his power over evil.*

**Adventure Challenge:** Luke 9:18- 62

**Explorer Challenge:** *Option A.* Compare Luke's description of the Transfiguration with that in Matthew 17:1-9 and Mark 9:2-8.

*Option B.* Research "transfiguration" using Wikipedia or another reference tool to learn the traditional analysis and interpretation of this event.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him! (Luke 9:35)