

This story will be Sunday's Gospel story.

'Gospel' is a word that comes from the Greek language. It means 'Good News'.

It's about the **'transfiguration'** of Jesus'.

It's difficult to explain to you what **'transfiguration'** means exactly, but I think the closest I can get to it is

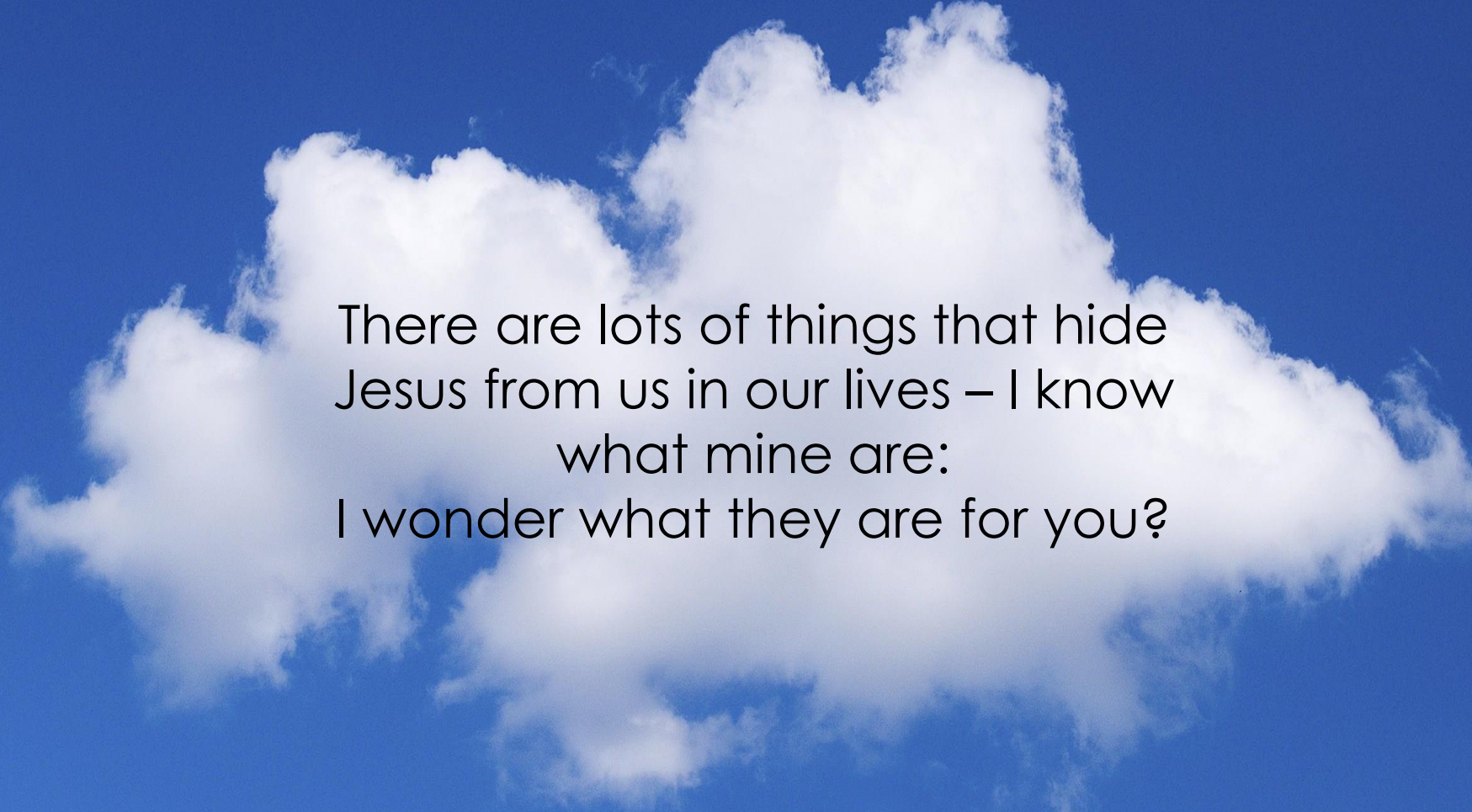
'Jesus is shown as another version of himself'

or perhaps

'Jesus is shown as the version of himself he will become'.

Before we begin, though, be ready to listen out for these next few things in the story:

Listen out for the 'cloud' coming down that momentarily hides Jesus from the sight of his friends.

A large, fluffy white cloud with soft, billowing edges, set against a vibrant, clear blue sky. The cloud is the central focus of the image, with its white color contrasting sharply with the deep blue background.

There are lots of things that hide
Jesus from us in our lives – I know
what mine are:
I wonder what they are for you?

Please notice, though, that God speaks through that cloud to Jesus's friends. Just because we can't see at times doesn't mean that we can't be seen.

Peter gets so excited he wants to stay in that place forever.

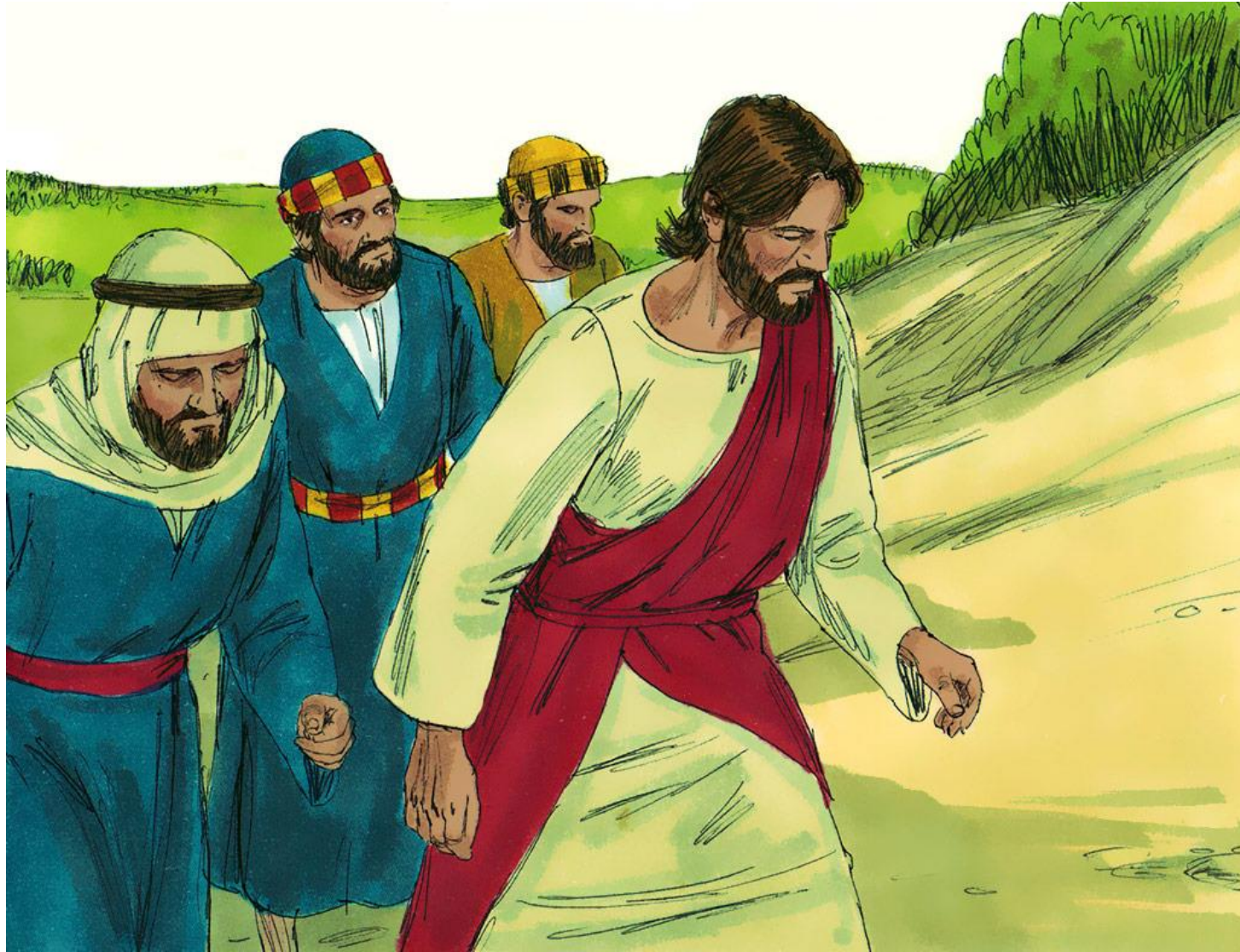
He offers to build a tent (a home) right there so no-one there has to go anywhere else ever again!



Is it right, though, that we stay in the same place forever no matter how exciting it is?

Anyway, here is the **story**:

Peter,
James and
John went
with Jesus
up a
mountain
to pray.

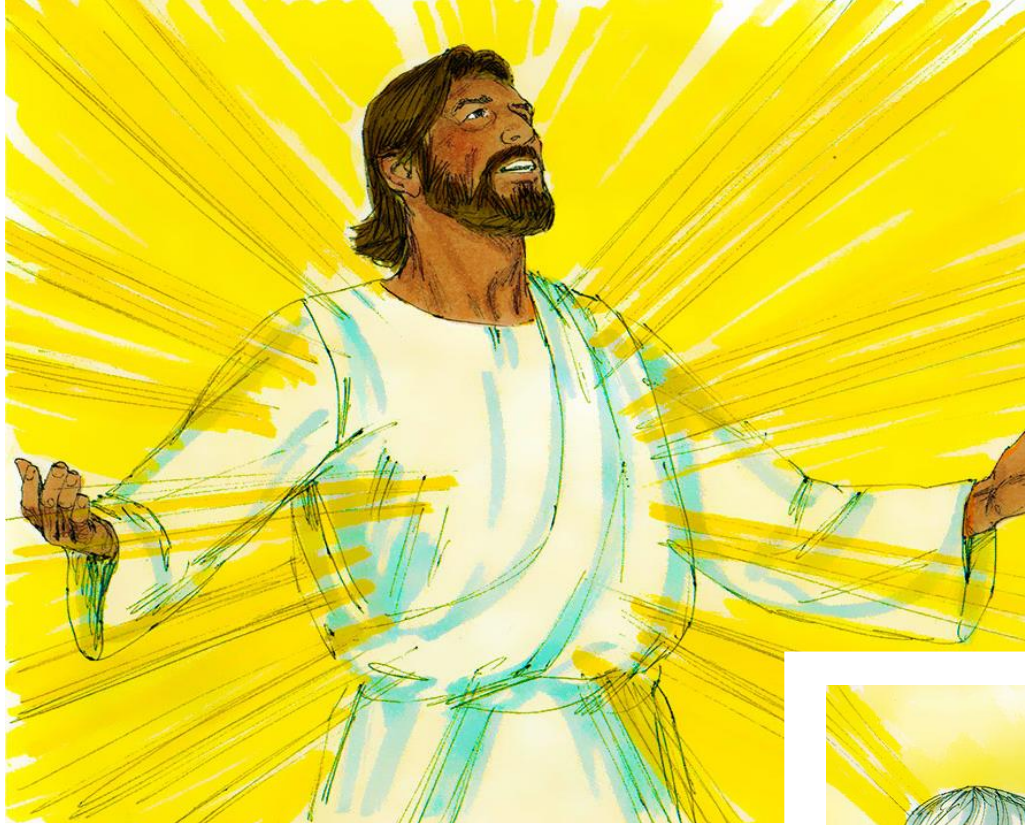




Jesus began to
pray...

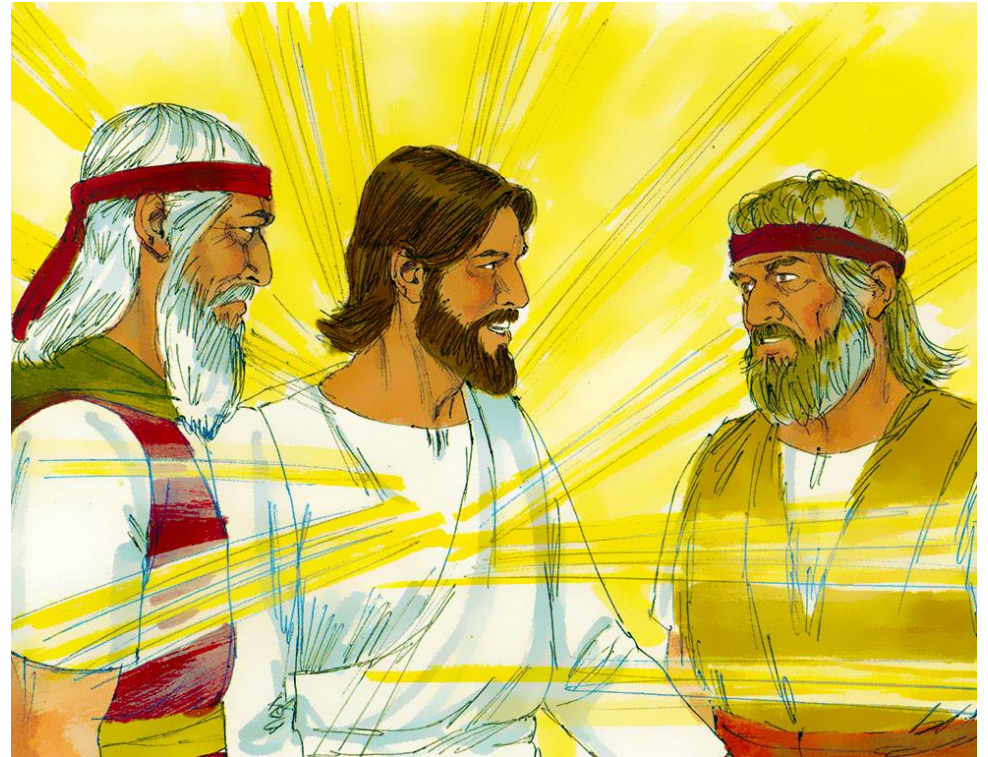
...but Peter,
James and John
were so tired that
they fell asleep.



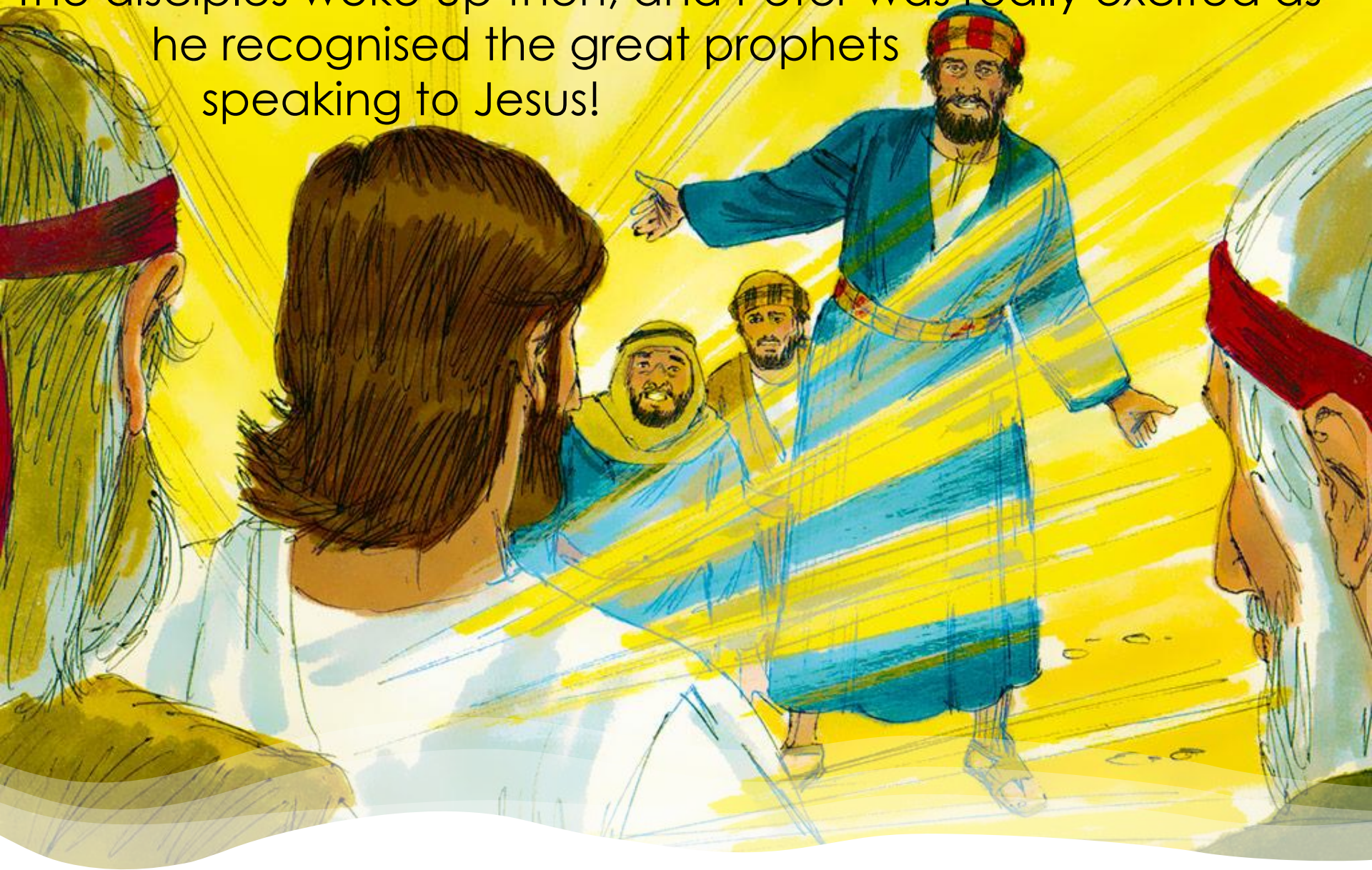


As Jesus prayed, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.

Moses and Elijah, the great prophets, appeared with him and spoke to him about the path that his life was to follow.



The disciples woke up then, and Peter was really excited as he recognised the great prophets speaking to Jesus!



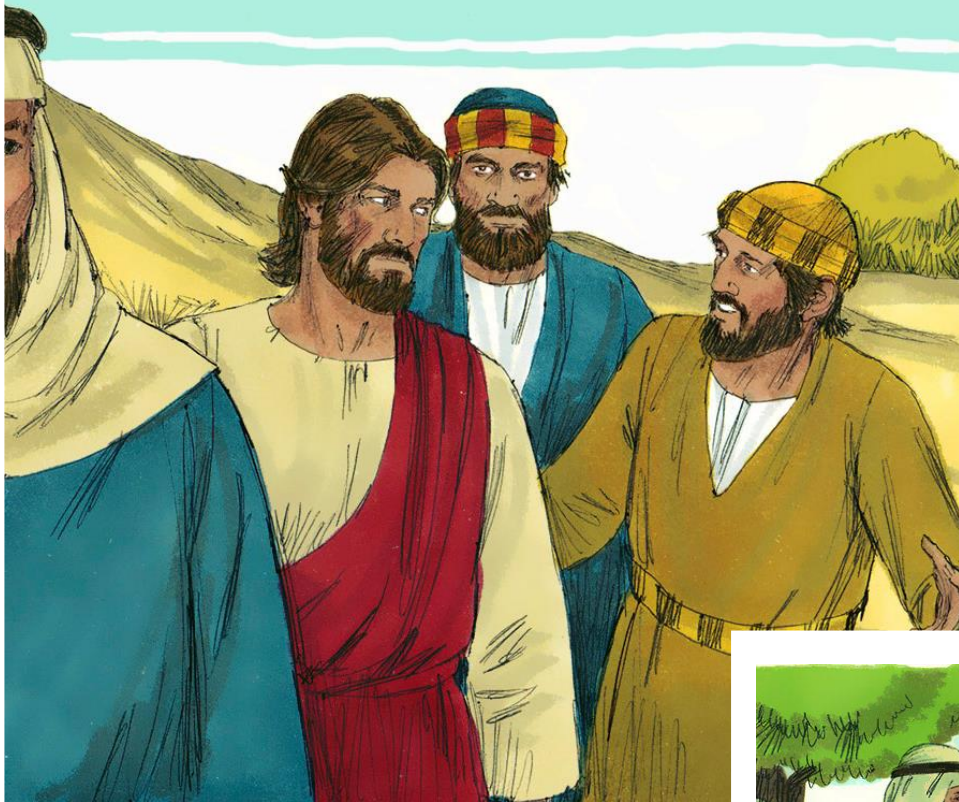
“This is wonderful!” he cried. “Let me build three tents here – one for you, Lord, one for Elijah and one for Moses!”



Then a cloud came down and covered Jesus, Elijah and Moses. They heard a voice:

“This is my Son, my beloved. Listen to what he tells you!”

The disciples were afraid then and they hid their faces. When they looked up again, they were alone with just Jesus.

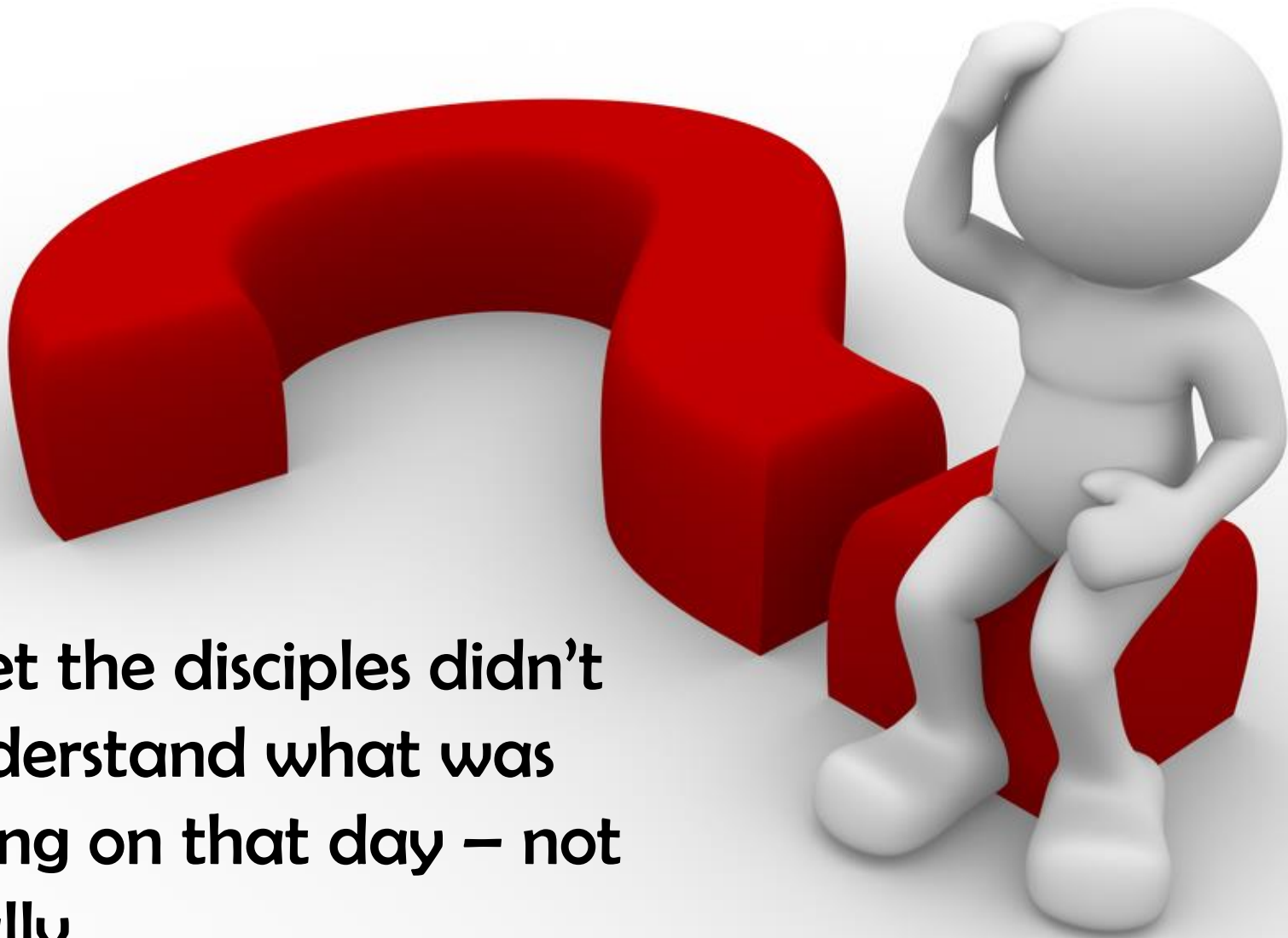


Jesus asked them
not to say anything
about this day until
he had risen from
the dead.

They talked to each
other, and to Jesus,
about what this meant.
Jesus told them that his
life had a pattern to
follow that God had set.



Sometimes in life we don't understand things.



I bet the disciples didn't understand what was going on that day – not really.

What do you think they thought or learned?

Jesus understands that we don't understand stuff at times.



Maybe this story is his way of showing us what to what exactly to concentrate on during Lent.



Maybe he is showing us the future – God's plan for us each to be what God intended us all to be: even him!



Maybe it's this:

when he appeared like
this, he was showing them
(*and us*) how beautiful
God's love makes a person.

Maybe he was (*and is*) the face of God's love.

Maybe he wanted to show them (*and us*) that God's
love makes them (*and us*) beautiful too – if we
listen and believe and act.

Maybe all they (*and we*) have to do is keep remembering that...

“God’s love makes me beautiful!”

...and that God is there through the cloudy times, talking to us and hoping we’ll keep moving forward.

I hope this isn’t all to much for you guys to think about! If it is, just remember the story and focus on the prayer.

Lord Jesus,

In you we can see God's face,
leaning close to the world
and whispering,
“You are my children!
I am with you always!
Follow my Son Jesus,
who I have sent to guide you towards happiness”

Help us see your face in the world today.

Help me be the person
that shows the face of God in our world today!

Amen