

Lesson: Road to Emmaus

Purpose: Sometimes things in our lives don't make sense to us. Even if we know God is at work, we have a difficult time understanding what He might be doing. In this lesson, we recognize that God's big plans will come through, no matter what we can recognize immediately. Jesus revealed who He was to disciples, when they were ready and willing to comprehend. Therefore, we can see His plan for us, if we are ready to look for it. We can walk with Jesus!

Activating Strategy:

Test Your Ability to See Things (choose one of these activities to see how well you see)

- Hidden Pictures
 - Find all the numbers.



- Play "I Spy" with someone (Find something in the room and give one clue, for example.. " I spy something blue." Then have your partner find the object.)

Introduction:

As soon as I could read, I loved reading mysteries. I love taking clues and trying to solve the mystery. Often there was this "Aha! Moment" and I could see clearly who did it! ! It was always fun to finally find out if I was right. In fact, I still love to read mysteries!

God has a book for us to read called the Bible. All throughout the Bible, He tells us clues about who He is and about His plan. We need to study those clues so we can know more about God.

Call to Worship:

Leader: We continue to celebrate Easter!

Children: Come let us worship!

Leader: We continue to learn more about Jesus!

Children: Come let us read His Word!

Leader: We continue to read to understand!

Children: Lord, we come to you ready to learn!

Bible Lesson: The Road to Emmaus (The Bible verses this week are from Luke 24: 13-45. Due to the length of this passage I would read and discuss the story from a children's Bible for younger children and

break down the passage for discussion as the children read for older students.)

“On the day that Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared to different people. Towards the end of the day, He appeared to two of His disciples who were walking from Jerusalem towards Emmaus, which was a 2-3 hour walk. Let’s draw a line on the map from Jerusalem to Emmaus.”



“The Bible tells us that the eyes of the men were “were kept from recognizing him,” or not allowed, to know that it was Jesus who joined them on their walk.”

Read together Luke: 24:17-19

17 He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”



They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

19 “What things?” he asked.

*Ask:

- If Jesus is God, which He is, wouldn't He have already known why the men were sad? (Yes)
- Why do you think He asked them about it then? (By asking questions, the men have to think about what actually happened over the weekend.)

"The Bible says that one of the men was Cleopas. He seemed quite amazed that Jesus had not heard of what had happened over the last few days. The death of Jesus must have caused quite a stir."

"Let's read together how the men responded to Jesus' question."

Luke 24: 19-24

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

*Ask:

- What are they describing to Jesus? (Let's highlight just the facts.)
 - He was a powerful prophet.
 - The chief priests handed Him over to our rulers for sentencing to death and crucified.
 - They hoped He was the one to redeem them.
 - Three days later His body is missing when women visited His tomb.

- Angels said that He was alive.
- Did Jesus really not know what had happened? (No. He was Jesus. He was the One who had just died and rose again.)
- Why do you think Jesus asked them about what happened? (Allow for answers, it is possible that Jesus wanted them to go through all of the facts of the weekend. He wanted them to voice some of the clues!)

"At this time, Jesus knows that these two men don't have a clear understanding of who He was and why He died on the cross. Therefore, Jesus reminds them of the Words found in the Old Testament that prophesied His life and death to help them understand why the past few days had to happen. Apparently, these are words they have heard before, but did not really understand. They had clues about what had happened, but didn't see those clues. "

"Let's read what happens when the two men come to the end of their journey."

Luke 24: 28-35

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

*Ask the children to retell what they just read in their own words.

The rest of the verses found in Luke should sound familiar to you. Read verses 36-45.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.

*Ask:

- When have you heard that part of the story before? (Last week's story about Thomas.)

"Here we have the "Aha Moment"! All the clues have not only been seen, but they finally understand.

Why is the story about The Road to Emmaus important for us to study? (We can make a connection to this how life is a journey for us, and we may not always understand what God has planned for us. Just like the disciples, our eyes may be cloudy and we can't see what road we should take, but when we stay close to Jesus, our eyes will be opened.")

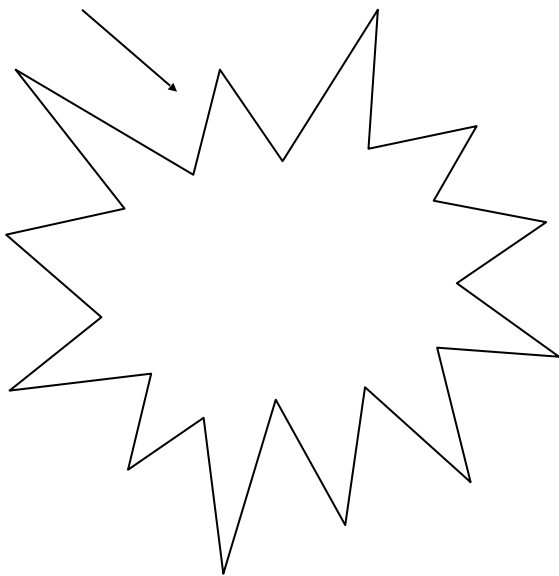
I am certain one of the reasons our parents/grandparents have us attend church/Sunday school, to encourage us to follow Jesus. Let's brainstorm ways we can follow Jesus. (Write down their ideas. Then complete the activity below.)

Close with a prayer and then take a walk to just think about the the importance of "The Walk to Emmaus"

"Our heavenly Father, We know you want us to know you..... Yet, we read the Bible.... and don't always understand what we read..... We do have faith.... that as we follow Jesus.... our eyes will be opened.... and we will... understand the clues. Thank you, God.... for revealing the truth.... a little bit at a time." Amen

Following Jesus

1. This week I will follow Jesus by doing this!



Lord God
Help me be a disciple!

2. Decorate the Toes of The Feet Day by Day as You Follow Jesus!

