

8. Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)



Those in front of him and those following were shouting, *“Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!”* (Mark 11:9)

Before You Teach

The Gospels contain multiple stories of Jesus’ post-resurrection appearances. Of these, the appearance on the road to Emmaus is one of the most detailed. Two of Jesus’ disciples are walking to Emmaus. These two men, one of whom is named Cleopas, are among the extended group of Jesus’ followers, but not part of the twelve of Jesus’ closest disciples. The location of Emmaus is unknown. Scholars have proposed three possible locations within 7 to 20 miles of Jerusalem.

It was the first day of the week—the day of Jesus’ resurrection—and as the two disciples walked along, they were discussing everything that had happened. Then Jesus joined them, but the men did not recognize him. In response to Jesus’ question concerning what they were talking about, the men proceeded to tell him about Jesus and the past week’s events. As readers, we can appreciate the irony in the question one of the disciples asked Jesus, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?” We know that, in fact, Jesus is the only one who truly knows and understands what has happened!

When the trio reached Emmaus, Jesus acted as if he were going on. Jesus was following hospitality etiquette of the time. In Near Eastern cultures a guest was obligated to turn down an invitation of hospitality until it was vigorously repeated. The two disciples insisted, and Jesus accepted their offer of hospitality. As they shared a meal, Jesus “took” the bread, “blessed” it, “broke” it, and “gave” it to them. These “actions” are Jesus’ signature; these same verbs are used in the telling of the feeding of the five thousand and the sharing of the Lord’s Supper. It is through Jesus’ actions, rather than his words, that these two disciples finally recognized him.

As Jesus’ followers, our actions often have a bigger impact than our words. Do our actions show others that we believe in and follow Jesus?

GATHER

—Who Am I? (Game)

- Invite the children to help you come up with names of people who are familiar to your group. Try to have the children come up with the same number of names as there are children in your group.
- Write each name on a sticky note.
- Have one child be the guesser who stands or sits in front of the other children. Place one of the sticky notes on the child’s forehead. Make sure the other children can read the name, but don’t say the name out loud.
- Have the guesser ask the group a question to help determine whose name is on the sticky note.
- Allow the guesser to ask questions until he or she guesses correctly. If the guesser has asked ten questions without a correct guess, the other children may tell him or her the answer.
- Play until each child has had a turn to be guesser, or as long as interest and time allow.

OR

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B—What Do You See? (Puzzle)

Before class: Make a copy of “Do You Recognize Them?” (p. 54)

- Give each child a copy of “Do You Recognize Them?”
- Encourage the children to find and color the hidden birds in the tree.

EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

SAY: This week and next week we are learning stories about what happened in Jesus’ community right after Easter. I wonder what we can learn from Jesus and his faith community.

ASK: I wonder:

- How many friends are here with us today? Who is missing?
- How do you feel today?
- What’s one thing that happened in your community this week that you really liked?

Hear and See the Bible Story

SAY: Today our Bible story is about two men who met a stranger while they were walking down the road. I wonder who the stranger was. Let’s find out.

- Tell the children the story, “The Road to Emmaus” (*Deep Blue Bible Storybook*—p. 392).

ASK: How can you share the story of Easter?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Give each child a copy of “Emmaus” (Bible Story Sheets—Session 8).
- Read the story with the children, encouraging them to read the words in blue.

Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Post the Bible Verse Poster—Unit 2 (Class Kit—p. 5) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Point to the Bible Verse Poster. Say the Bible verse for the children, and then repeat it together.
- Teach the children signs from American Sign Language for some of the words in the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 95 and www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday).
- Watch the Unit 2 Bible Verse video (Adventure DVD) with the children.

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RESPOND

A—On the Road (Activity Sheets)

- Give each child a copy of Activity Sheets—Session 8, a large craft stick, and two pieces of clear tape.
 - Invite the children to create the Emmaus scene according to the instructions.
 - Encourage the children to use their scenes to retell the Bible story.
-

B—Rock Coloring (Art)

Before class: Gather and wash smooth stones for the children to color. Cover a table with a disposable paper or plastic tablecloth to protect the table from the permanent markers.

- Put a smock or large t-shirt on each child.
 - Give each child a small stone. Help the child write a phrase such as “God loves you!” or “God is with you!” on his or her stone using a permanent marker.
 - Invite the children to finish decorating their stones with permanent markers.
 - Take the children outside and have them place their decorated stones in various places around the church property so that people who see the stones will be reminded of God’s love.
-

C—Disciples Walking with Jesus(Art)

- Follow instructions on the activity page to recreate the disciples walking with Jesus on the road to Emmaus.
 - Challenge your child to retell the story using his/her story pieces
-

D—Bible Craft Club Accordion fold coloring sheet (Art)

- Follow the instructions on the coloring page to color, cut, and fold the paper
- This craft is an optical illusion that we like to call "Is that you, Jesus?" At first glance, it's kind of confusing, but with just a couple of folds, you'll recognize that it's Jesus.

It's not always easy to recognize Jesus in our life, sometimes it takes a whole day of walking alongside Him, like His followers on the road to Emmaus, to know He is there.

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BLESS

Praising

Before class: Display “Singing Together” (Class Kit—p. 25) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Sing together, “Be Present at Our Table, Lord” (Class Kit—p. 25).

TIP: If time permits, invite the children to choose more songs to sing.

Blessing

- Invite the children to sit in a circle. Encourage them to sing with you the song, “Jesus Loves Me.”

PRAY: Thank you, Jesus, for loving us! Amen.

At Home with God - Family Faith Activities

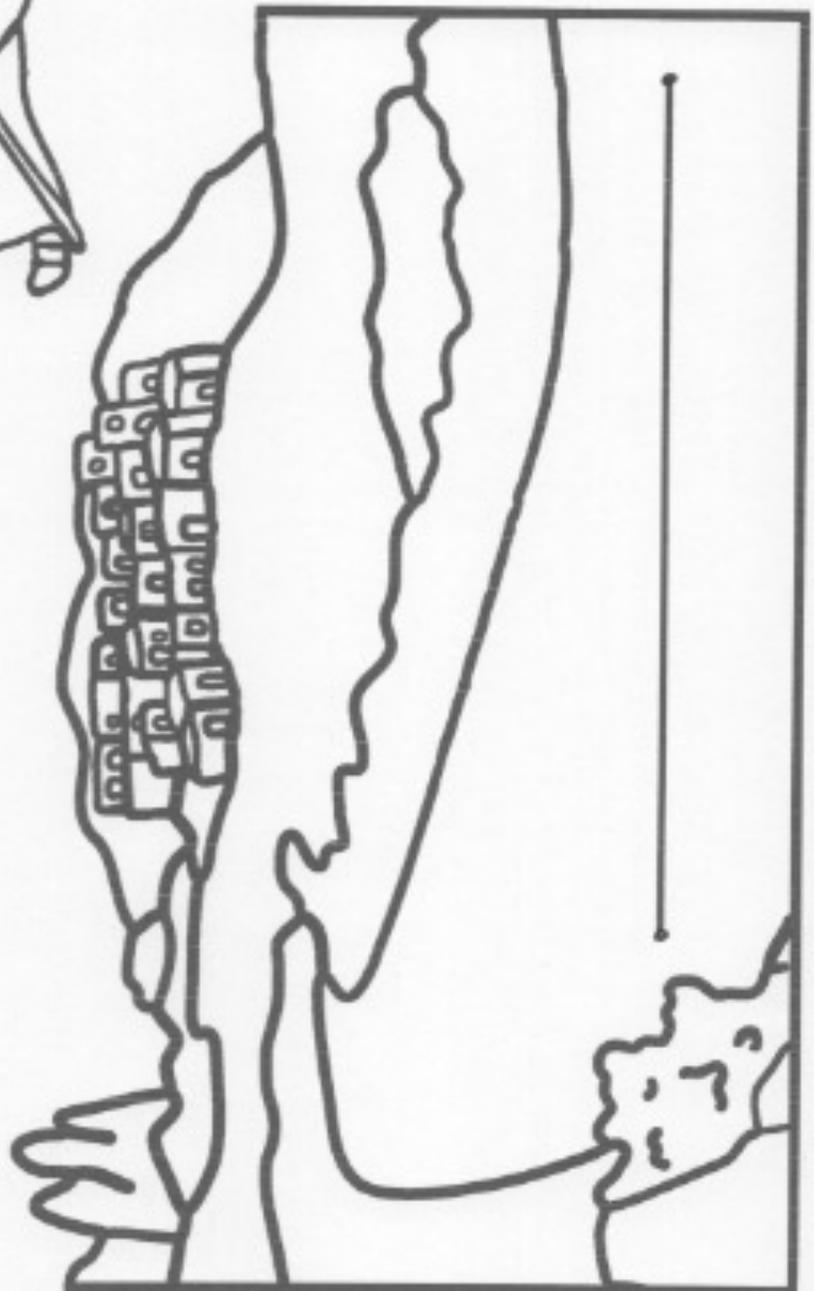
- Meal Time - Be together & Wonder together: Share the story of Easter with one another. Take turns sharing the story a sentence or two at a time.
- Family Time - Be Together: Watch the Bible Verse video for Unit 2 together- you can see and download it from <http://www.deepbluekids.com/free-stuff/sign-language-videos> Can you sign the Bible verse?
- Look It Up - Be together & Wonder together: The walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus was said to be about 7 miles. Look at a local map of your town or neighborhood. If you walked seven miles from your home, where would you be?
- Bed Time - Be together & Wonder together: Play an imagination game. Ask one another, “If I were in disguise, would you be able to recognize me?” Answer one another, “I would recognize you because...”

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1. Color both pieces & then cut them out
2. Glue the three figures onto a large craft stick
3. Cut on the solid line segment  creating a slit to insert the popsicle stick to recreate the disciples walking the road to Emmaus with Jesus.



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. BIBLE .
CRAFT CLUB



COLOR
the craft in.
We suggest
using colored
pencils if you
got 'em!



CUT
along the
dotted lines to
cut the optical
illusion out!



FOLD X3
the page in
half, then fold it
in half again..
then fold it in
half one more
time!

You're basically
folding the
page like a fan
along all the
rectangle
shapes.

Then lay the
page flat! If you
look at it from
one side at the
right height and
angle you will
see Jesus. On
the other side
you will read a
piece of
scripture!



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Instructions: Three unexpected friends are hanging out in the tree. Can you find and color them?

