



Date: _____
Series: The Christian Church Begins (Spring)
Year 2, Lesson 49

The Road to Emmaus

Bible Event: Luke 24:13-35 Jesus meets two friends on the road to Emmaus after he rose from the dead.

Take Home Point: *JESUS IS ALIVE – *I can't wait to tell others.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus died and rose for everyone—share the Good News!

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that Jesus rose from the dead and on that first Sunday morning also appeared to two friends while they were walking on the road. God caused them to not recognize Jesus. They shared their troubled hearts with him. Jesus explained how the Bible already spoke of how the Promised One was supposed to die and rise again, paying the price for all our sin. Finally, when they were eating together, the two friends recognized Jesus. Jesus then disappeared from sight, and the disciples quickly went to tell the others what happened. Kids will learn, ***JESUS IS ALIVE – *I can't wait to tell others.***
- Children will respond to the news of Jesus' resurrection by sharing the Good News with others. They will make a craft to help tell the story of how Jesus appeared to his friends and is alive with us even now. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.

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Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: *The Story of Easter: The Beginner's Bible*, by Sony Music Entertainment, Inc. and Time-Life Video and Television, 1995. If you have other videos to substitute, insert here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from the Traveler

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

In the backpack will be pita bread, bread loaf, a Bible or a scroll.

Boys and girls, today in my travels through the world of the Bible, I met two other men who were walking along a road. They were very close friends to Jesus but they were very troubled. For, you see, on Friday, they had watched Jesus die on the cross. How do you think that made them feel? Right, very, very sad. And now it was three days later. Can you count with me to three? One... two... three. It was Sunday and they were walking away from the town of Jerusalem where all this happened. While they were walking along, another man came to walk along side of them. He asked them, "What are you discussing?" They stopped and looked very sad. One was Cleopas. He said, "Don't you know? Haven't you been in Jerusalem? Haven't you seen the terrible things that happened to Jesus of Nazareth?"

"What?" said the man.

“Well, Jesus died on the cross,” they explained. “We thought he was a powerful prophet who did wonderful things for God. Our religious rulers punished him with death. We were hoping he would be the one who would free people. All that happened just three days ago. What’s more, today some of the women in our group surprised us. They went to the tomb early this morning and didn’t find his body. They told us they saw angels who said he was alive. Some of our men went to the tomb and found it empty, just as the women had said, but they didn’t see him. Aren’t these strange things that are happening?”

The man said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are. Haven’t you read the Bible? Don’t you believe it? In the Bible, it says that the Promised One of God, the Messiah, would have to suffer these things to take away the sin of the world. Haven’t you read the Bible?” Then the man took the Bible and began to explain from the very beginning and all through the Bible how the prophets said what Jesus would have to do and suffer.

How do you think the men felt? As they listened, their hearts began to beat faster and faster. They were excited because they could see how this was all true and a part of God’s plan. When they finally came to the village where they were going, the stranger said he would continue to walk. But the two men pleaded with the man and said, “Stay with us. Have dinner with us. After all, it is almost dark.”

Take out the bread and break it as you continue with the following.

While they were in the house, this man took the bread and gave thanks to God for it. He then broke the bread and gave it to them. Then, the men’s eyes were opened! They recognized who the stranger was. Who do you think it was? It was Jesus!

All the time on the road they didn’t understand that the man with them was Jesus, because God didn’t let them recognize him. Now that they understood the truth about how Jesus would live again, God let them see it was Jesus, indeed! They were so excited. But then, just like that (snap your fingers), Jesus disappeared from their sight.

What do you think the men did next? Do you think they were excited? You bet. They knew Jesus was alive. They also knew when he was talking to them their hearts were beating fast because they understood the truth of the Bible. It *had* talked about Jesus all along, saying that Jesus would die for our sins and rise again.

The men hurried to Jerusalem and found the other disciples and Jesus’ friends. All of them were already saying that Jesus had really

come back to life because he appeared to Simon Peter. These two disciples said, “He appeared to us also, but we didn’t recognize him until we were having dinner with him.”

Boys and girls, can you see Jesus today? No, you can’t. But is he alive? Yes, he is! The Bible is still true. It tells us that Jesus is alive and has done everything to take away our sin, so we can be friends with God. That is important news to share with others also. So let’s be like those two early disciples: ***JESUS IS ALIVE—I can’t wait to tell others.**

I’ll say the first part and you repeat the second part: ***JESUS IS ALIVE—I can’t wait to tell others.**



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Each child will have a half tortilla. Use a stick of margarine or squeeze butter to make a wavy line across the tortilla to pretend it is a path. It will scarcely be visible. Create a sugar cinnamon mix in a sprinkling container. Have the child sprinkle the mix on the tortilla. Watch it stick to the path. This reminds them of the disciples on the path who didn't recognize Jesus until they had dinner with him.

Messy Zone: Have a sand table and let the children make pathways in the sand, reminding them of the road to Emmaus.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to act out Jesus with the men on the road to Emmaus. Adult shepherds can help by asking questions to clarify the story.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of the men on the road to Emmaus from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #154, "Jesus Appears to the Disciples" from *Betty Lukens' Through the Bible in Felt.*)

Craft Zone: Children will write the name JESUS with their fingers in Vaseline or petroleum jelly on 8 1/2x11-inch paper. Use the template as a guide underneath the paper. Then paint over the letters with red tempera paint. The name of Jesus will appear.

Play Zone: Play the game, "Who's There." Have three to five children crawl beneath a sheet or parachute. The rest of the children stand behind a line four feet away. The shepherd lifts up a corner of the sheet farthest from the line (so those behind the line cannot see) and passes a ball to one of the children under the sheet. This child is now "IT." The shepherd assigns one of the children behind the line to say, "Jesus is alive." The person who is "IT" under the sheet says, "I can't wait to tell others." The child that said, "Jesus is alive" can now try to identify the child who spoke underneath the sheet. If the guess is correct, the two children trade places.

If the guess is incorrect, the shepherd assigns a new person behind the line to say, "Jesus is alive" and gives the ball to a different child under the sheet who will respond, "I can't wait to tell others."

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of the men on the road to Emmaus.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: “The Road to Emmaus” coloring page.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

The large group presenter asks Bubba to come out. He doesn't come out so the presenter encourages a child to call on his name and then asks the whole group to call even louder. Still, Bubba doesn't come. The presenter turns his back and says, "I guess Bubba isn't here," upon which Bubba surprises him and appears. The presenter asks what he is doing. Bubba says he just likes to surprise people and is practicing appearing out of nowhere. The presenter points out that this is similar to today's Bible event. Bubba is curious as to how they relate. The children explain to him how Jesus appeared to the two disciples while they were walking on the road to Emmaus. Bubba continues to interject questions into the children's explanations so the points are brought out that:

- *Jesus died but is alive again,*
- *he appeared to these disciples even when they didn't recognize him at first,*
- *how throughout the Bible it spoke of how Jesus would fulfill God's promises from many years before to save the world,*
- *and finally, that Jesus is alive today, even though we can't see him.*

The presenter reminds the kids that ***JESUS IS ALIVE – I can't wait to tell others.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling the fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross your hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone

- video- *The Story of Easter*, The Beginner's Bible produced by Sony Music and Entertainment, 1995—order from <http://www.sonymusicstore.com/store/catalog/MerchandiseDetails.jsp?merchId=5036&skuld=28249>
- books, crayons, blocks, puzzles

Bible Event

- backpack with Bible or Scroll, hard roll or pita bread

Activity Zones

Snack

- half tortilla for each child
- stick or squeeze margarine
- sugar cinnamon mix

Messy

- sand table
- broom
- dust pan

Puppet

- puppets appropriate to retelling the story

Felt

- materials to reenact story (For example, use Lesson #154, "Jesus Appears to the Disciples" from *Betty Lukens' Through the Bible in Felt.*)

Craft

- Vaseline or petroleum jelly
- one sheet of 8 1/2x11-inch paper per child
- template as a guide underneath the paper
- red tempera paint

Play

- sheet or parachute
- masking tape
- small ball

Quiet Reading

- basket of books; include books, especially any that feature the story of the men on the road to Emmaus

Music

- your choice of music

Coloring

- coloring page
- crayons and markers
- plain paper

Closing Worship

- puppet

Closing Zone

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

JESUS