



Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Year 3, Lesson 49 (Spring)

# Jesus is Alive— He is Really with Us

**Primary Scripture:** Luke 24:13-35

**Key Verse:** Matthew 28:20b, (*Jesus said*) "...And remember that I am always with you until the end of time."

## **How does this address a need in our kids' lives?**

Children by nature are open to believe the unseen, yet, like adults, they need encouragement in their faith. Faith is believing in someone or something we cannot see. We cannot see Jesus in person, yet, through faith, we can believe that Jesus truly is alive after being raised from the dead. Just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus discovered that Jesus is alive and real, our kids need the same reassurance. Their "spiritual blinders" need to be removed so they can see the reality of Jesus who is with them through every step of their life. This meets the child's need of security in knowing that Jesus is not only with him/her but that Jesus is who he said he is—God's Son who has given his life for them that he might live in them and be with them forever.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Through his death and resurrection, Jesus secures a relationship with us and makes his presence available to us always.

**Jesus in us:** Jesus is not only content to exist in the heavens, but he also dwells in the heart of every believer through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Jesus through us:** Through faith in Christ, Jesus uses our witness to bring his presence into the lives of others.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

## Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

## Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

*Supplies: blinder glasses—a pair of sunglasses that have been taped over so that the wearer cannot see anything. This can be done with tape or paper.*

*Option: use a sleep mask as a substitute for the blinder glasses*

Have a volunteer come up and try on the special glasses. Ask the volunteer if he/she can see you to be sure they cannot see through the glasses. Choose another volunteer to come up. Give the first volunteer three clues to guess whom the second volunteer might be. Say:

**First, the mystery volunteer will come up behind you and write his/her name on your back with his/her finger.**

After the second volunteer writes his/her name on the back of the first volunteer, ask

**Who do you think it is?**

*Option: You may jokingly say, “Oops, I hope your mom isn’t going to get mad if we got pen marks on your shirt. You didn’t like that shirt much anyway, did you?”*

If the guess is wrong, continue with the next clue.

**Now for clue number two. You can feel the mystery volunteer's face. Who do you think it is?**

Continue to next clue if guess is wrong.

**I am going to give you one last clue. Mystery volunteer, please say "Hello, it is nice to be here." Do you recognize the voice?**

Whether the guess is correct or not, reveal the mystery volunteer to the blinded child. Then give other examples of how we can use our other senses to identify someone when we cannot see them. Thank the kids and dismiss them from the stage.

**How is this like Jesus? Can you see Jesus here today? No. But is he here? Absolutely, yes.**

**Today we will read the Bible event where Jesus appeared to two friends. They didn't recognize Jesus at first. When they finally did, though, their hearts were warmed and they were excited. Jesus was real to them. So when we worship today, we won't see Jesus standing here like you can see me standing here, but we can be sure that he is here even though we cannot see him.**

## **Songs of Worship:**

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

Your choice of music.

## **The Power of the Cross:**

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

*Supplies: blinder glasses*

Presenter puts on blinder glasses.

**There have been times in my life that, even though I knew Jesus was with me, I didn't *feel* very close to him. Because I was going through a difficult time, it didn't *feel* like he was right here or cared.**

**Sometimes I might *feel* that Jesus isn't near because I am doing something I shouldn't. That can be uncomfortable because I don't want Jesus to see me doing something wrong. Some people simply have a hard time believing that Jesus is really God's Son. Or they might not believe Jesus loves them and wants to be with them. But**

**here is what Jesus says in Matthew 28:20b, “And remember that I am always with you until the end of time.”**

**These were some of the last words Jesus said to his disciples before he went back into heaven. He had shown himself to his disciples. Everyone had seen that he died on the cross but he didn’t stay dead. He came alive again to prove that he would never leave us and to prove that our sins are forgiven.**

**So, even if we feel far away from God or we have doubts or sin in our life, Jesus still says, “I am with you always.” Let’s take off our blinder glasses and see that Jesus really is here.**

Take off the glasses.

**Let’s pray:**

**Jesus, we thank you that you are alive and that you are really here with us. Thank you for giving your life for us. Because you died on the cross, you have the power to take away all of our sin. Help us to not doubt you or disobey you. When we have feelings of loneliness, help us remember that as a child of God, we are never alone because you are with us always. You are here even if we don’t see or hear you, because we believe what you said is true. In your precious name. Amen.**

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

## **Offering:**

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

Hold the offering basket and make the following invitation:

**Kids, when you come up this morning to give your offering, look at my hands holding the basket. Imagine that instead of me holding the basket, that these are Jesus’ hands holding it. That is because this money is not for me, but for Jesus.**

**Does Jesus hold this offering basket because he needs your money? No. Jesus owns everything in the world because he created everything. Giving money to godly causes is one way you can show your love for Jesus. So, as you come up and give your offering, it is just like telling Jesus you love him.**

After the offering, describe your current mission project. Then say:

**Jesus' hands will take these gifts and use them to show his love to other people. These people might be on the other side of the world or in our community and they will be blessed by what you give. Will they know you or what you look like? No, but they will experience Jesus' love sent to them through you.**



# The Word

## Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

*Supplies: pencils and 10-12 index cards or 3" X 5" pieces of paper*

### Who Am I?

*Objective: Guess a person's identity based on three descriptive clues.*

Have an adult helper randomly choose three to five children in the audience at the beginning of Kids Church. Before it is time for this game, the helper writes down three attributes about each child beginning with the phrase "I am..." Some attributes to pick are: eye color, school he/she attends, type/color of clothing worn, birth order, where the child is sitting in the room, number of siblings, gender, hobbies or hair color/style. When listing clues, start with the most vague clue and end with the most specific.

*Example:*

**Clue #1** "I am the youngest of three kids." (Audience guesses)

**Clue #2** "I am wearing a pink skirt." (Audience guesses)

**Clue #3** "I am sitting in the third row." (Audience guesses)

*Who am I? Kelly Smith*

Pick a kid to come forward and read the clues for the first child. To help this go smoothly, have an adult onstage help with word pronunciation or if a child is intimidated to speak in front of a large group.

Once the child described is identified, he/she comes up and reads the clues on the next card. This continues until all three to five pre-selected children have been correctly guessed.

**Now I want you to think of someone in the room you would like to describe and come up with three of your own clues. You don't want to make it too easy, so don't give really specific clues like, "I am Bobby's sister."**

Invite a child on stage. Have the child give his/her three clues allowing the audience to guess who is being described after each clue. Caution the child not to stare at the person he/she is describing so he might not give the answer away.

At the end of the game, say:

**I have one last friend I want to describe. Let's see if you can guess whom I am talking about.**

Then describe Jesus using three of the suggested clues listed below (Be sure to use clue # 8 as your last one):

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| <b>Clue #1</b> | <b>I was born in a small town.</b>   |
| <b>Clue #2</b> | <b>I like to go fishing.</b>   |
| <b>Clue #3</b> | <b>I like camping with my friends.</b>   |
| <b>Clue #4</b> | <b>I love to hang out with my friends.</b>   |
| <b>Clue #5</b> | <b>I am a good listener.</b>   |
| <b>Clue #6</b> | <b>I am a good helper.</b>   |
| <b>Clue #7</b> | <b>I always obey my father.</b>  |
| <b>Clue #8</b> | <b>My favorite thing to do is hang out with my friends. In fact I love my friends so much, that I would give my life up for them. I am the best friend each one of you will ever have.</b> |

Answer: *Jesus*.

### Teaching Point

If you know each other well, it does not take many clues to guess who is being described. If you don't know the person well, but he/she is present, it may have taken a little extra effort to figure out whom we were talking about, but you eventually got it.

With Jesus, we may forget that he is here with us. In those times when we feel he is not near, stop and think about him. Did he promise to always be with us? You bet he did. Why? So he could give us forgiveness and the power to live obediently. So if you are afraid, take comfort. The Bible tells us that if you believe in him, he will always be with you.

# Bible Presentation:

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

## Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-35

### Option one: Story Tell

*Prop: two blinder glasses*

Have two kids come up and give each a pair of blinder glasses. Have the kids pretend to be Jesus' two friends walking to Emmaus. Even though their eyesight is fine, in a way, they couldn't see. Use props to change characters and voices as you tell this Bible event.

### Option two: Audience Participation

*Props: two blinder glasses, three Bible period headpieces (In lieu of one of the headpieces, a hooded sweatshirt can work.)*

Invite three kids forward. Have two children play the disciples and wear the headpieces. Give each one a set of blinder glasses to put on when it is appropriate in the dialogue. The child playing Jesus wears a headpiece or hooded sweatshirt that partially covers his/her face.

*To help the children act this out, the presenter can help prompt the kids with appropriate body movements. This may be done by whispering directions to the child or by coming behind them and helping move their hands, feet, etc. according to the story. While the actors might do body movements and gestures, there is too much dialogue for them to repeat.*

### Introduction

*Presenter and volunteer kids perform a paraphrase of Luke 24:13-35.*

**On the same day, two of Jesus' disciples were going to a village called Emmaus. Here they are now.**

Bring students playing the disciples onto stage. Please note they should not wear the glasses yet. The students walk in place and pretend to talk. Coach the kids to mope as they walk in place.

**See them walking? While they walked, they talked about everything that had happened. You can even see by their gloomy faces and slow walk that they were pretty sad. Just three days ago, Jesus, their teacher, had been killed.**

## Disciples are blinded from the truth

Have kids put on the blinder glasses.

**They were confused because they thought the coming of Jesus' Kingdom wasn't possible now because he was dead. Jesus knew he would die on the cross. They thought the death of Jesus was the end of his life and his ministry. God had a bigger plan they couldn't see. I guess they didn't understand that Jesus knew he had to die for our sins before he could enter into his glory.**

## Jesus Appears

Escort Jesus onto the stage.

**Suddenly Jesus came and joined them. Although they saw him, they didn't recognize him. While the disciples were talking, Jesus began walking with them.**

**Jesus asked them, "What are you talking about?" The disciples stopped, their faces were downcast and they were sad. One of them, named Cleopas, said, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who doesn't know what has happened these last days?" Then Jesus answered, "What has happened?"**

## Disciples Explain

**They said to him, "We were discussing what happened to Jesus. He was a powerful prophet who did mighty works of God. Our religious leaders handed him over to be put to death. It has been three days since everything has happened. And then this morning some of the women from our group amazed us. They went to the tomb where Jesus was buried and didn't find his body. They told us that they had seen angels who said that Jesus is alive. Peter and John went to the tomb and found it empty, just as the women had said."**

## Jesus Responds

**Jesus responded, "Don't you understand what the prophets have said? It seems to me you are blinded from the truth." Jesus then talked to the disciples for a long time about the meaning of the scriptures. He explained the teachings of Moses and the prophets and how the Messiah would have to suffer and die before he rose again.**

## Stay for Dinner

**When they approached the village, Jesus acted as though he was going further.**

Pull Jesus aside from the other two.

**But the others strongly encouraged Jesus, "Please come and stay with us. The day is almost over, can't you have a meal with us?" Jesus said, "Yes."**

## Blinders Come Off

**While they were eating, Jesus took the bread, broke it and gave it to them.**

As the Jesus character pretends to break a loaf of bread in half, have the disciples remove the blinder glasses.

**It was then that they recognized Jesus and their eyes were opened.**

Have the children playing the disciples look at Jesus, rubbing their eyes in amazement.

**Then the disciples said, "This is Jesus. He is the Messiah and he is alive."**

## Their Hearts Were Burning

**Suddenly, Jesus disappeared.**

Remove Jesus from the stage.

<i>Option:</i> Turn the lights off while Jesus gets offstage and then turn them quickly back on and continue with the story.
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**Then the disciples said, "Our hearts were burning inside of us when he talked to us on the road and explained to us the Bible. Now it all makes sense. Jesus is alive and he is the Messiah. He is our Savior." At that they got up and ran back to Jerusalem where they found the other 11 disciples.**

Have the children playing the disciples face the audience, pretending to talk to them as if they were the other disciples. Another option would be to have the children exclaim to the audience the below dialog instead of the presenter.

**They said, "It's true, the Lord is risen. The Lord has really come back to life."**

Thank the children for participating and excuse them from the stage.

# **Application:**

This is an imagination exercise in which the kids learn to delight themselves in the Lord. Make sure all kids are comfortable and, as much as possible, without distraction. Have them keep their eyes closed and imagine very carefully what you are saying.

**Let's take time to listen and talk to Jesus. Let's be happy in him and wait for him.**

**Picture yourself on top of a beautiful hill on a bright sunny day. As you are standing on a path, someone is walking toward you. As this person gets closer, your heart beats faster because you realize this person is your very best friend. And here he comes up to you now. He is Jesus. His eyes sparkle with delight because He loves to be here spending time with you. "Would you like to take a walk?" he asks.**

**"Sure," you say, and off you go.**

**As you walk down the path, Jesus points out the beautiful world around you. He says, "I made all of this for you. Notice the clouds...that bird singing there...the flowers bending in the breeze...the wind on your face..."**

**You say, "Thank you. It is great that you made everything. There are some other things that I would like to thank you for." Tell him in your heart what those things are. Pause.**

**Tell Jesus in your mind right now, "One of my favorite things to do is \_\_\_\_\_. (Pause.) "Thank you for letting me do it in a way that is pleasing to you."**

**Then you notice Jesus' hands. They are scarred. You remember that he was nailed to the cross so you could be forgiven. He sure must care about you a lot to do that. So you tell him, "Thank you" in your own special way. (Pause.)**

**Then you say, "Thank you for making me your child. When I do anything not pleasing to you, please forgive me. Help change me. What would you like to change about me?"**

**Listen. What is Jesus saying to you? (Pause.)**

**"Jesus, here are some things that I sometimes worry about. Would you help me with these things?" (Pause.)**

**"Jesus, I need your power to be more patient and kind. Here is how I**

would like to behave with my family." Tell Jesus what that looks like.  
(Pause.)

"Here is how I would like to treat my friend \_\_\_\_\_. " (Pause.)

"Jesus, something I look forward to a whole lot is \_\_\_\_\_. Will you help me when I get to that event?" (Pause.)

As you are walking with Jesus, you think of something that you would really like to do with him. Tell him about that now. (Pause.)

Jesus says, "I'm looking forward to spending lots of time with you and I'm pleased with you because you trust in me."

Look who has come with you. It's Jesus. He says, "I'm still here. I will be with you always."



## Witness and Tell:

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

*Option 1:* Have the kids share how they have heard Jesus speaking to them recently. Examples: prayer time, worship and praise, reading the Bible or being encouraged by another believer.

*Option 2:* Choose a few kids who have recently overcome a tough time. Have those kids share how they now recognized God's hand in getting through that situation.

## Prayer:

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

**Options:** (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

**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:**

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## **Song of Sending:**

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

# Supplies:

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

## *Attention Grabber:*

- blinder glasses—a pair of sunglasses that have been altered so that the wearer cannot see anything. This can be done with tape or paper. *Option:* sleep mask

## *The Power of the Cross:*

- blinder glasses

## *Learning Game:*

- pencils
- 10-12 index cards or 3" X 5" pieces of paper.

## *Bible Presentation:*

- two blinder glasses
- three Bible period headpieces (*Option:* In lieu of one of the headpieces, a hooded sweatshirt will work.)