

8. Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)

“Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Mark 11:9)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Puzzlers
Who's Missing?
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversations
Hear and See the Bible Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Tell the Story
Emmaus Road Door
Hanger
Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Offering basket |
Pencils | Scissors | Markers | Crayons |
Card stock

Gather: TV/DVD player | Hiding place

Explore: TV/DVD player

Respond: Tablecloth | LED candle |
Storage bin with dirt

Bless: Tablecloth | LED candle |
Storage bin with dirt | TV/DVD player

Before You Teach

This week, we are exploring a story that takes place after Jesus' resurrection. In our Bible story, two of Jesus' disciples encounter Jesus on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, while they are talking about the events that took place surrounding Jesus' death. However, they are completely unaware that they are talking to Jesus. They relay the events surrounding the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus to Jesus as though he is a stranger who is ignorant of current events. The disciples Jesus is walking with do not seem entirely convinced of his resurrection. Jesus chastises them about not believing all that has been prophesized about him. Then he explains the things that have been written about him in the Scriptures.

When they arrive at Emmaus, Jesus acts like he is going to keep walking, but they beg him to stay. That evening, he takes bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to them. Only then do the men recognize Jesus. At that moment, he disappears from their sight. Afterward, they talk over how impassioned they felt as Jesus spoke to them along the road and explained the Scriptures to them. They say that their hearts burned. In the Bible, the heart is spoken of as the center of thought and decision making. So, by saying that they felt a fire stir in their hearts, it's like saying that they felt a change in their minds upon hearing Jesus' words. The disciples get up immediately after Jesus disappears and go back to Jerusalem to tell the Eleven (the remaining of the twelve disciples after Judas is gone) what they had experienced. They say, "The Lord really has risen!" (verse 34).

The disciples only recognize Jesus when he breaks and blesses the bread, which is a reference to the Lord's Supper, a ritual Jesus gave his followers for remembering him. As the disciples recognize Jesus through this ritual, we, the readers, are also supposed to recognize Jesus through this ritual when we read the story. In this session, we will explore telling Jesus' story, as well as do some fun activities to remember the story of the Road to Emmaus.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display either attendance chart (Class Kit—pp. 16–17 or 15 & 18) at eye level.

- Play “Part of the Story” (Adventure DVD), as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings on the worship table.
- Have the children mark the “Attendance Chart” by signing their first names on week #8.

SAY: Today, we are learning a story that took place after Jesus’ resurrection.

A—Puzzlers (Activity Sheets)

Before class: Tear out the Session 8 Activity Sheets for each child.

- Give each child a copy of “Who Was There?” (Activity Sheets—p. 17). Let them complete the puzzle.
- Allow them to work on the “On the Road” activity (Activity Sheets—p. 18).

SAY: Our Bible story for today, is about a journey that some of Jesus’ disciples took.

OR

B—Who’s Missing? (Game)

Before class: Designate a hiding spot in your classroom. This could be behind a piece of furniture or a large counter, depending on your space. This should be big enough for any child in your class to hide in comfortably. If there is not a good hiding space readily available, make preparations to create one. This could be done by moving furniture, hanging a curtain, or creating a screen using cardboard.

ASK: Can you imagine having someone you were talking to suddenly disappear?

SAY: Jesus did just that in our Bible story.

- Show the children the designated hiding space.
- Have the children all sit at tables and put their heads down. Quietly tap one child on the shoulder and have him or her quietly go and hide behind a large object in the room. Then have the children with their heads down raise their heads.

ASK: Who is missing?

- Let the children make guesses until they figure it out. Let the hiding child come back and join the group and play again. Play until all have had a chance to hide or as your time permits.
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Transition to Explore

- Encourage children to bring a chair or to sit on the floor in a carpeted area.
- Invite children to form a circle on the floor.

TIP: *Transitions are a helpful way for children to move easily from one activity to the next.*



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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

- Encourage children to join and sit in the circle.
- Demonstrate a listening position for the children.
- Ask wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- How do you feel when you run into someone unexpectedly?
 - Have you run into someone you know while traveling?
 - What would you say if you ran into Jesus?
-

Hear and See the Bible Story

- Read the Bible story together (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible*—Luke 24:13-35).
- Watch the Adventure DVD Session 8.

SAY: Our Bible story for today takes place after Easter.

ASK: How can you share the story of Easter?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Assign parts and act out “Emmaus” (Bible Story Sheets—Session 8).
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display the “Unit 2 Bible Verse” poster (Class Kit—pp. 7 & 26).

- Tell the children the Bible verse: “Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” (Mark 11:9).
 - Invite the children to say the verse with you.
 - Have the children to say the verse to another child in the room.
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Transition to Respond

- Encourage children to put away their chairs and/or get back to their places.

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RESPOND

Tell the Story (Storytelling/Drama)

Before class: Gather a Deep Blue Kids Bible for each child.

SAY: In our Bible story, some of Jesus' disciples are talking about what happened to Jesus at Easter.

ASK: How well do you remember the Easter story?

- Have the children form teams, and provide each person with a Bible. Let them review Luke 24:1-12 (the Easter story from Session 7), and come up with a way to act out the story. Allow them to get creative by using things in the classroom as props if they would like. Let each team have time for collaboration.
- Then let the teams act out their retelling for the class.

OR

Road to Emmaus Door Hanger (Craft)

Before class: Photocopy "Emmaus Door Hanger" (Leader Guide—p. 54) on card stock for each child. Gather crayons, markers, and scissors for each child.

SAY: Let's make a door hanger that we can put on our door at home to remind us of today's Bible story.

- Give each child a copy of "Emmaus Door Hanger" (Leader Guide—p. 54) and crayons or makers and scissors.
- Let the children color and cut out the doorhanger.

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Put out the Deep Blue Town Map (Class Kit—p.14) and the Benjie, Cinnamon, and baby elephant figures, and the Zoo building (Class Kit—p. 19).

SAY: In our Bible story, some of Jesus' disciples are talking about what happened to Jesus at Easter.

- Allow the children to come up with a scenario in which Benjie tells the story of Easter to the animals on a road in the Deep Blue town.

Transition to Bless

- Ring a bell to announce the transition.
- Create a worship center on a small table with a tablecloth, plastic bin containing dirt, and an LED candle.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Display “Unit 2 Bible Verse Signs” poster (Class Kit—p. 30) on a wall or bulletin board.

SAY: Today, we learned about a time when the disciples encountered Jesus on the road but did not know him. Let’s learn a Bible verse that people who recognized Jesus said to him another time when he was traveling (Palm Sunday).

- Gather the children around the Bible Verse Signs poster. Have the children read the Bible verse.
 - Teach the children to sign the verse.
 - Have the children practice signing the verse all together, just as the people who recognized Jesus probably said it all together when they called out to Jesus during his travels.
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Praising

Before class: Gather a TV/DVD player and the Adventure DVD.

SAY: Today, we’re learning about part of Jesus’ story.

ASK: Did you know that we are all part of God’s story?

SAY: Let’s learn a song about being part of God’s story!

- Play “Part of the Story” on the Adventure DVD.
 - Let the children sing along.
-

Blessing

Before class: Gather handwashing supplies.

SAY: Let’s take a moment to remember the disciples’ encounter with Jesus on the Emmaus Road as I say a blessing for each of you.

- Gather around the worship center, and light the candle.
- Call the children to approach the worship table one at a time. Have each child trace a path in the dirt with his or her finger as you pray the following prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for always being present with us whether we see you there or not. Please go with (insert child’s name) on (his or her) life’s journey. Amen.

- Afterward, have the children wash their hands.
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At Home with God

SAY: What was one thing that you learned today about the disciples’ encounter with Jesus on the Emmaus Road? Can you share what you learned with your family?

- Send Bible Story Sheets—Session 8, and the Unit 2 Song Sheet home with each child.

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Emmaus Road Door Hanger

