

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)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Who Am I?
What Do You See?
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

Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
On the Road
Rock Coloring
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Clear tape | Stickers
| Markers | Crayons | Pencils | Glue |
Paper | Scissors

Gather: Sticky notes

Explore: No additional supplies needed

Respond: Large craft sticks | Smocks
or large t-shirts | Disposable paper or
plastic table covering | Smooth stones |
Permanent markers

Bless: No additional supplies needed

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?

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display the Attendance Chart (Class Kit—pp. 15–18) at eye level. Put together the model of the zoo and the figures of Benjie, Cinnamon, and the baby elephant (Class Kit—p. 9).

- Play, “Part of the Story” (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD and Leader Guide—p. 92) as you welcome each child.
 - Show the children where to place their offerings, and help each child mark the Attendance Chart with a sticker or permanent marker.
 - Place the Deep Blue Shores Map (Class Kit—p. 11) and the zoo and Benjie, Cinnamon, and the baby elephant figures (Class Kit—p. 9) on a table or on the floor for the children to play with and explore. If available, add the Deep Blue Shores Maps, buildings, and figures from previous quarters.
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A—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.
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OR

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.
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Transition to Explore

- Have the children move to the Bible story circle in groups of two.

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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?
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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).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 8 (Adventure DVD) with the children.

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.

TIP: Printable “Word Cards” for the words in blue are available each quarter to download and print at www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday.

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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Transition to Respond

- Have the children move to the next activity in groups of three this time.

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RESPOND

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Post “All Are Welcome” (Class Kit—p. 27) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Play, “All Are Welcome” (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD). Sing along and dance to the music.

SAY: The two men walking on the road to Emmaus didn’t recognize Jesus at first. When he served them bread at dinner, they recognized him. They were reminded about how Jesus served others.

ASK: How do you serve others? How might your serving other people remind them of Jesus? How have other people reminded you of Jesus?

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.
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OR

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.
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Transition to Bless

- Have the children move to the Bible story circle in groups of two again.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Cut out the Walking with Jesus Mural Pieces (Class Kit—p. 19) and place them in an envelope or zip-top bag. Post the Walking with Jesus Mural (Class Kit—pp. 2 & 31) on a wall or bulletin board. Find and prepare one or two pictures of people in your church, family, or community to add to the mural.

- Gather the children around the mural. Invite a child to tape the image of the two men on the road to Emmaus **(I)** somewhere on the mural.

ASK: What do you remember about the Bible story we heard today? What do you think we can learn about community from this story?

SAY: Next week, we will be adding more pictures of people from the Bible who knew Jesus. Some of them knew Jesus before Easter, and some didn't know Jesus until after Easter. We know Jesus too! I wonder who you can think of who is “Walking with Jesus” like the people in our Bible stories.

- Tell the children about the pictures you prepared before class, and then tape the pictures to the mural. Invite the children who brought in their own pictures to tell about them and add them to the mural. Remind the children that next week is the last Sunday they can bring their own pictures of people who are “Walking with Jesus” to add to the mural.
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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

ASK: What's one thing about our time today that you can tell your family?

- Give each child a copy of Bible Story Sheets—Session 8. Look at “Family Faith Activities” together.

ASK: Which of these activities are you most excited to try this week?

- Send home the Bible Story Sheets—Session 8 with each child.

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Do You Recognize Them?



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

