



LESSON PLAN

Scripture Texts:

Luke 24:13-35

1 Corinth. 15:12-20

Session Theme:

Surprise

a. Welcome to Class

Teachers should arrive in the classroom well in advance of class. Welcome students as they enter, and inquire about their week. Pass out name tags and record attendance on a classroom chart.

b. Icebreaker: A Trip to Remember!

Ask kids to tell about a trip they took where something unexpected happened along the way. It could be a walk, a drive, or a longer journey. What happened that surprised them?

To get things started, tell of a time when you experienced something like this, yourself. For your own story, try to think of something that involved a positive or exciting surprise, as this will tie in well with the Bible story.

In today's story, two men were on a long walk and were talking intently to each other. Then a third person joined them. That was a mild surprise, but much more was to come! What happened? Let's begin our lesson and find out!

c. Opening Prayer

Lord God, please help us to have eyes to see the many ways you are with us in our daily lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

d. SEED Video or Song (Optional)

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This time may also include an opening song or two, using a commercial Sunday School music CD.

Song suggestions for this lesson:

- "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" (spiritual)
- "Rejoice in the Lord Always" (children's song)

e. Brief Bible Background

Read together the introduction to the lessons for the day, and briefly summarize the context and setting:

- Today's Lesson is from the New Testament
- Scripture Section: Resurrection

On the third day, when the women went to the tomb, they found it empty. They were told by an angel that Jesus had risen from the dead. Later, the living Jesus appeared to many of his followers over a period of 40 days before he ascended into heaven.

f. Communicate the Bible Story

Always keep in mind that the main purpose of Sunday School is to put people in contact with Bible stories. Use a version that is appropriate to the age level:

Children: Read aloud the Bible Story and Rhyme

Youth/Adults: Read aloud Scripture from the Bible

g. Complete the Worksheet(s)

Continue with the handout sheets appropriate to the age level of the students in class:

Pre-Readers: Coloring Page and Activity

Elementary: Children's Pages (Worksheet and Drama)

Youth: Bible Study (Maps, Timelines, and Questions)

Adults: Bible Study (Large or Small Group Discussion)

h. Craft and Activity Time

If there is time after covering the Bible story, the class may move to craft and activity time, described on the following page. (Do not let the activity time supersede the actual time spent on the Scripture lesson.)

i. Summarize and Review

Before ending class, briefly summarize the day's lesson one last time. Use the Bible Rhyme as a short review, or simply ask questions to help the students recall the events of the story.

Youth/Adult: Discuss "Reflection for the Week Ahead"

j. Closing Prayer

Close the session in prayer before dismissal:

Pre-Readers: Teacher leads a simple prayer

Children: Practice a prayer from memory (e.g., the Lord's Prayer, Luther's Morning Prayer, etc.)

Youth/Adult: Use the ADTRC Prayer format



Bible Study Leader's Guide

The following is a discussion and answer guide for the Youth and Adult Bible Study sheets. For all leaders, it can serve to provide some background on the Bible lesson.

Discuss: Luke 24:13-35

1. The verses just prior to this lesson tell the story of the women finding the empty tomb and the angel's message that Jesus had risen. Did the travelers know this information? Why did they not believe it?

The travelers did have the information that Jesus had risen, as delivered by the women who spoke with the angels. They did not believe it because they thought that it seemed like nonsense. They had not yet experienced the reality of Jesus' resurrection personally.

2. From what they say in the text, how would you describe the thoughts and emotions of the two disciples on the road? Why do you think they didn't recognize Jesus?

They are sad at the death of Jesus, and perhaps had their sadness renewed by the words of the women that Jesus had risen, as they heard the words but did not believe. All their hopes and dreams for Jesus have been crushed and they feel defeated. They did not recognize Jesus because he withheld recognition from them so that he could teach them what they needed to know from Scripture before he revealed to them that he was Jesus.

3. How did Jesus respond to what the two travelers said to him (v. 25-26)? Do you hear this as words of judgment or as sympathetic understanding?

Jesus is sympathetic with them in their lack of understanding, but he points out to them that it is their lack of understanding of the Scripture which prevents them from believing the good news that he has risen from the dead.

4. Jesus said that what had happened in Jerusalem was "necessary." Necessary for what? Was this the only way it could have happened? Explain.

It was necessary for our salvation; Jesus died as the sacrifice for our sins. It was the only way that it could happen, there is no forgiveness without the shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:22), and only the blood of God in the flesh could cover the sins of all mankind in every place and time.

5. When Jesus shared supper with the travelers, Scripture says, "He took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them..." (v.30). What do these words remind you of? How does Jesus come to us in the "breaking of the

bread"?

These are the same verbs we hear in the Words of Institution. Jesus taking the bread and breaking it is what he did at the Last Supper when he instituted Communion. He comes to us in the breaking of bread because he is present in the bread of Holy Communion, and he gives us the forgiveness of our sins when we eat of his body and blood in the sacrament.

6. What did the two disciples mean when they said, "Did not our hearts burn within us ... ?" (v. 32)? What were they feeling? Has the story of Jesus ever made you feel that way?

Their hearts were burning because they were finally understanding what they had learned since childhood. All the Scriptures which they had read and memorized gained fuller meaning as they understood how they spoke about the Messiah, who was Jesus.

They were feeling the power of the Holy Spirit working in them and giving them understanding from the mind of God. Think about how you have felt when hearing or reading the Bible speaking about who Jesus is and what he has done for you.

7. Do you think the travelers were surprised by what they heard when they returned to Jerusalem? Why did they believe it now?

They were most likely more encouraged than surprised to hear that Jesus had appeared to Simon. They believed because they had seen Jesus themselves and had listened to his teaching. In the same way, God comes back to us with his promise again and again, to overcome our doubts and sustain us in faith.

8. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. Paul says here that if it were not for Jesus' death and resurrection, we would have no hope for a future life. Why is Jesus at the heart of the promise we have of eternal life?

Our hope for eternal life rests in the promise of God that we receive it through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. We believe that God the Son took on human flesh, lived the perfect life which we cannot, died to pay the penalty for our sin, and rose again with a glorified body in which he ascended into heaven.

We are united with Christ in his death and resurrection. The resurrection is necessary for our faith, for it is the seal that all the promises of the incarnation and death of Jesus are true, and that he does indeed have the power and authority to raise us from the dead in glorified bodies, just as he was raised.

Classroom Craft and Activity Page

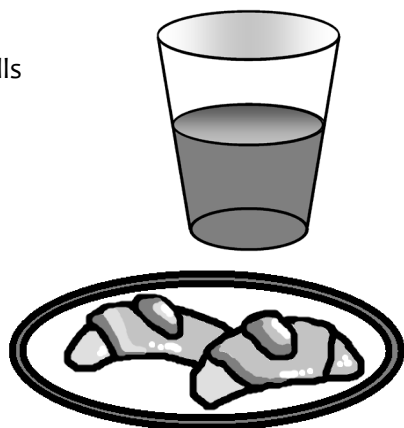
Listed below are in-class activities and craft projects related to the theme for the day. Choose one of the following based on the age and capabilities of the students. (Never let the activity or craft time take precedence over the biblical story.)

Activity 1: "Bake and Break Bread!" Activity

(for all children)

Materials Needed:

- Tubes of Crescent Rolls (refrigerated dough)
- Grape Juice
- Plates, cups, napkins
- Parchment paper squares (not wax paper)
- Permanent marker
- Baking sheet



Instructions:

This activity works best if you have an extra adult helper. The helper can heat the oven, bring the rolls to the kitchen and wait while they bake, then bring them back to your classroom while you and the kids continue the class.

Heat an oven to 350 degrees (or whatever temperature is recommended on the tube of dough). Invite kids to wash their hands.

Give each student a square of parchment paper and write their initials in the corner of the square. Make sure the initials are small so the dough will not cover them.

Next, give kids a triangle-shaped piece of dough and show them how to roll the dough into a crescent shape on their parchment square. (Directions on the tube will illustrate.)

Place all of the parchment squares with the dough on them on the baking sheet. Ask the helper to bring them to bake in the oven for the amount of time directed on the tube. When the rolls are ready, the helper can bring them back to class.

Play the game while the rolls bake.

When everything is ready, give each student a cup of grape juice to have with their roll.

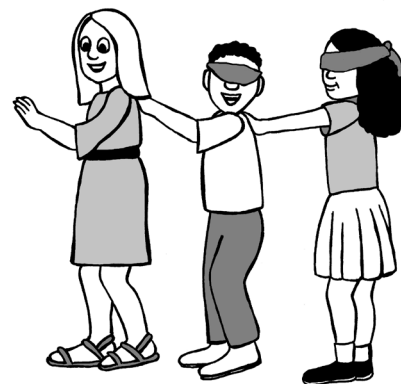
As you eat, discuss today's story, and how the disciples didn't understand who Jesus was until they broke bread together. Why do you think it was this act that helped them recognize their risen Savior?

Activity 2: "Walk by Faith" Activity

(for all children)

Materials Needed:

- Blindfolds
- Several towels or small throw pillows
- Large open area to play a game
- Timer



Instructions:

All of life is really about learning to walk by faith, where we come to trust God more and more with every step.

To play this game, set several pillows (or bunched up towels) as "obstacles" in a large open room. The object of the game will be for the Leader to guide the Followers around each of the objects without anyone stumbling over them.

Choose one volunteer to be the Leader. Everyone else in the class will be Followers. Blindfold the Followers and have them stand behind the Leader, single file. (If you have a limited number of blindfolds, kids could do this in teams, one team at a time.)

Invite Followers to put their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. Only the Leader will be able to walk with open eyes and no blindfold.

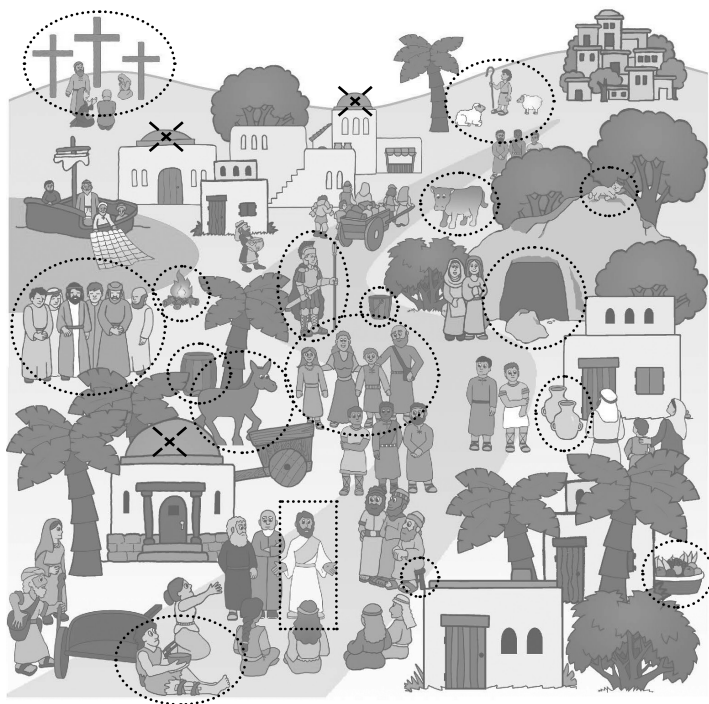
Set a timer for 5-10 minutes. When you say "Go," the Leader will slowly walk from one end of the room to the other, guiding the followers in a circle around each "obstacle." None of the obstacles can be ignored; the Leader must take the group around each one. The challenge is for everyone to get to the other side without removing their blindfolds or stumbling over an obstacle before the timer sounds.

In today's Bible story, the disciples were so focussed on everything that was wrong that they didn't even realize who walked with them! Sometimes we can be the same. Like in this game, we can get nervous about not knowing what is ahead, fearing obstacles in our path, and afraid to take a step forward. Yet Jesus is with us in our walk of faith, too, every step of the way. Trust the Lord...he will be your guide!

Worksheet Answer Key

Shown below are the answers and solution to the children's worksheet for this week's lesson:

Find the Pictures



Reflection for the Week Ahead

The disciples in this week's story were very surprised when they realized that their companion on the road was none other than the risen Christ!

It may seem surprising to us that they did not recognize Jesus, but they weren't expecting or looking for him. As we think about this more deeply, have we always had "eyes to see" Christ in our midst either?

This week, think about times when you were suffering in some way, and the Holy Spirit surprised you. Perhaps it was through a sermon or hymn when you needed those words the most? Perhaps in the good care you received from someone? Perhaps in an unexpected kindness at just the right time?

Talk about the ways that God reaches out to us, even when we aren't expecting it. Tell about a time when you experienced this first-hand. What surprised you most?



The Practice of Prayer

On the lines below, thank God for the ways — big and small — that he reveals his presence in our lives. Ask God to keep your eyes open to what he is doing in the world and in your neighborhood. Pray to be a part of it.

Practice using the ADTRC Prayer Form: Address, Description, Thanks, Request, Conclusion.

A: _____

D: _____

T: _____

R: _____

C: _____

Map Answers (from the youth pages)

