

A REVEALING TRUTH

The Emmaus Road
Luke 24:13–35
AD 33

OVERVIEW

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus shows He is alive.

BIBLE VERSE

Their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. Luke 24:31

LEARNER GOAL

I understand that Jesus uses His Word and Sacraments to help me believe and trust in Him.

LAW & GOSPEL

Our sinful nature blinds us to the truth of the Gospel.

Jesus opens our eyes through His Word and Sacraments so that we can believe and trust in Him.

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

Easter afternoon, Jesus joins two disciples discussing the events of the past week in Jerusalem while on their way to Emmaus. Along the way, Jesus interprets the Old Testament prophecies concerning Himself. Arriving at Emmaus, the disciples suddenly recognize Jesus, who then disappears from sight. The disciples quickly return to Jerusalem to share their amazing account.

LESSON PREP

BASIC Read Luke 24:13–35 and study notes in *The Lutheran Study Bible*.

MORE TIME Read the leader devotion, found in the digital resource center.

IN DEPTH Read the section “The Nature of the Sacrament of the Altar” in *Luther’s Small Catechism with Explanation* (2017).

SUPPLY LIST

FOR THIS LESSON

- Blue and yellow paper footprints
- Paper towel tubes
- Decorative paper
- Rope or masking tape
- Magnifying glasses, sunglasses
- Soft rolls and red jam
- Puppet
- Index cards

FOR EVERY LESSON

- Bible
- Device with prepped music
- Copies of downloadable activity page
- Copies of Enduring Faith Page
- Supply Box

LAUNCH

Plan your lesson by reading through the options in each section. Choose the activities that will best fit your learners, and mark those boxes to guide you as you teach the lesson.

BEGIN

- Follow the Order of Opening Worship, use the Lesson Opening, or do both (part of the planning resources in the digital resource center).
- Sing songs using music found in the digital resource center, or sing your own favorite songs.

SAY

- Jesus is risen! He's risen indeed! Alleluia!** Invite children to say, "He's risen indeed!" after you say, "Jesus is risen!"
- Have you ever tried to learn something new, but it didn't make sense to you? Then after you worked for a while and someone explained it a little differently, all of a sudden it just made sense? How did that feel? Think about that feeling as we read today's Bible account.**

PRAY

Dear Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for us. We're glad You came alive again on Easter. Help us listen and learn more about You and Your love for us. Amen.

LEARN

Show your Bible, and remind the children that all the stories in God's Word are true.

TELL THE BIBLE NARRATIVE

Choose one of the options on the next page to tell the Bible narrative.

DO THIS!

Use one or both of the following activities to talk about the Bible narrative after you've read it.

- FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE YOUNGER** Cut two sets of footprints from blue paper and one set from yellow. Put the blue footprints where children can see them. Tell the story using the Bible Narrative for Younger Children on the following page. When Jesus enters the story, add yellow footprints.
- FOR ACTIVE LEARNERS** Take a walk outside or somewhere besides your classroom while you tell this Bible narrative. Use one of the Bible narratives on the next page to guide your telling. As you are telling and walking, help students act out the different sections of the event.

TALK ABOUT IT

Choose the questions that best fit the learning level of your group.

- How did the men feel at the beginning of the story?
- What did Jesus tell them?
- How did they recognize Jesus?
- Even though we don't see Jesus in person like the disciples did, what are some ways that we still see Jesus today?

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

Guide discussion using these key points.

- Students may have heard the more familiar accounts of the resurrection but may not know of this event that also happens on Easter Day. Help students understand the chronology of this event and why it was important.
- These men weren't blind, but they couldn't see. They needed Jesus to help them understand.
- The Spirit works through pastors, teachers, and others as they share God's Word, to help us see how all Scripture points to Jesus and is written to help us understand Jesus' redeeming love for us.



CHRIST CONNECTION

Christ, who died for our sins, has risen again to give us the gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation by His Means of Grace.

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

STORYTELLING DIRECTIONS: After you tell the story, say and do the poem with children.

Do you like to go outside on walks? Maybe you play in the grass or walk to the playground. Years ago, there were no cars or buses or airplanes. People had to walk outside to get from place to place.

On the first Easter Sunday, two friends were walking home from Jerusalem. They were going to a little town called Emmaus. The friends were very sad. They were talking about their friend Jesus. They were sad that He had died on Good Friday. They didn't understand why Jesus had to suffer and die. One man said, "Some women said Jesus is alive again. But that can't be true!"

Soon, someone came and walked with them. Who do you think it was?

It was Jesus! He came and walked with the two friends. He listened to what they were saying. But the men did not know that the man walking with them was Jesus.

Jesus asked, "What are you talking about? Why are you so sad?"

So the men told Him the news about Jesus. They said, "Jesus was so good and kind. He taught people about God and made sick people better. But some soldiers put Jesus on the cross. When He died, some friends put Him in a tomb. Jesus has been dead three days now. Some women said He's alive. But that can't be true."

Then Jesus said, "You shouldn't be so sad. God's book, the Bible, tells us that the one God sent to save His people must die. He must also come alive again to save His people from their sins." Jesus told them many other things from God's Word.

Soon they came to the house where they were staying. But Jesus kept on walking. "Stop," the men said. "It's almost dark. Stay at our house." So Jesus did.

At supper, Jesus took some bread. He thanked God for the food. When the men saw Jesus pray and break the bread, they knew who He was. "Jesus!" they said. "You really are alive!" They were so happy. Then Jesus was not there anymore.

The two men were so glad that they ran back to Jerusalem to tell their friends. "We've seen Jesus!" they said. "He is alive!" What happy news!

Do this action poem together:

Two men were walking. *Walk in place.*

Two men were talking. *Open and shut fingers.*

Two men were sad, as sad as could be. *Look sad.*

Jesus was walking. *Walk in place.*

Jesus was talking. *Open and shut fingers.*

"Do not be sad! Be glad you're with Me!" *Smile.*

How does Jesus make you happy?

BIBLE NARRATIVE FOR OLDER CHILDREN

The same day as Jesus' resurrection, two men were so sad and upset, they left Jerusalem. They didn't believe what they had heard from the women who had seen the open tomb. These men were not part of Jesus' twelve apostles. They were part of a larger group of disciples, or believers. One was named Cleopas, but we don't know the name of the other.

They walked along a road that passed through a village called Emmaus. As they walked along, they talked about all the things that had happened. Jesus came near and started walking along with them, but they didn't recognize Him. He asked them, "What are you talking about?"

They stopped walking and looked at Him with sad faces. Cleopas asked Him, "Are You the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there?" Jesus answered, "What things?"

The two started telling Jesus about Himself. They said He was a prophet who was mighty in what He said and did. They told how the chief priests and rulers had handed Him over to Pilate and that He had been crucified. They talked about how they had thought Jesus was going to save Israel.

Then they said, "Some women from our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they didn't find His body, they came back saying they had seen angels, who said He was alive."

Jesus said, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!" He told them the Messiah had to suffer like this first and then enter His glory by rising from the dead. Then He went through the Old Testament and taught them what God had written about His suffering, death, and resurrection.

By now it was late in the day. The two disciples were stopping in Emmaus for the night, but Jesus acted like He was going to go farther. The two begged Him to stay with them, so He went inside. They sat down for supper, and Jesus took the bread, broke it, said a prayer of thanks, and handed it to them. Suddenly, they recognized Jesus—and then He vanished from their sight.

They talked about the wonderful burning feeling they had felt inside when Jesus was walking and talking with them. They were so excited that they ran back to Jerusalem, found Jesus' disciples, and told them how Jesus had walked and talked with them along the road.

LIVE

Choose from the following activities and crafts to help connect Bible learning to life.

Sing a Song

Sing to the tune “Are You Sleeping?”

Where is Jesus? Where is Jesus? *Hand over eyes.*

Everywhere, everywhere. *Arm to right, then left.*

What is Jesus doing? (Repeat) *Finger to temple.*

Taking care, taking care. *Hug self.*

Tell children that Jesus is everywhere! We hear Him talk to us in His Word, where we learn about His love for us.



“I Spy” Binocular Craft

Give children two 4-inch paper towel tubes, decorative paper or tissue paper, yarn, stickers, and other decorations (e.g., buttons, stick-on gems, sequins). Cut and glue paper to cover each tube. Staple tubes side by side. Punch a hole in one side of each tube and tie on yarn to make a strap. Add stickers and other decorations. Say, **Binoculars help us see things. Jesus gives us eyes of faith through His Word to see and believe in Him as our Savior.**



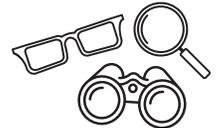
Emmaus Road

Have children line up behind a rope or masking-tape line. Tell them to pretend they are walking to Emmaus (a wall or other designated spot). Give suggestions (e.g., take two giant steps, hop four times, hold hands with a friend, take four baby steps). Once the children reach the wall, say, **Jesus is alive! Run (or walk quickly) back to Jerusalem.**



I Spy . . .

Set out magnifying glasses, binoculars (see above), and sunglasses along with objects to look at (I Spy books, leaves, flowers, etc.). Talk about which things help us see and which things make it harder to see (sunglasses).



Breaking Bread Snack

Serve soft rolls with red jam. As children break their rolls apart and add jam, say, **Jesus died and rose for us. He showed the men who He was when He broke bread and gave it to them. Jesus opens our eyes to see who He is when we hear His Word from the Bible. Pray, Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these Thy gifts to us be blessed. Amen.**



Go and Tell!

After the disciples realized they had been talking with Jesus, they ran back to Jerusalem to tell everyone. Hand out index cards, and ask students to write phrases such as “Jesus is alive!”

Take the students on a walking trip to deliver these messages to other classes, perhaps even the adult class.

Jesus is alive!

Puppet Talk

Puppet asks the children where they learn about Jesus. He asks if they can learn while sitting at the table to eat the way the men did. How? (Talk about family devotions.)

Say, **We can talk about Jesus wherever we are. We can also tell others He died and rose for us.** Sing “I Can Tell” (digital resource center).



LEAVE

SAY

These disciples really got to see that Jesus was alive. We, too, know that Jesus is alive. He rose from the dead and still lives today.

PRAY

Dear Jesus, help us to understand Your Word in our lives, to know the truth of Your resurrection. Help us to go and tell this wonderful Good News to everyone. In Your name we pray, Jesus. Amen.