

## 25. On the Road to Emmaus

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## 25

# On the Road to Emmaus

## Leader Notes:

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

*Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.*

**I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.**

## Breathe

*Use this time to focus your attention on God.*

**Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out.** *(Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.)*

## Tell and Wonder

**Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear?** *(Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.)*

**Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.**

*Read "On the Road to Emmaus" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.*

*You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.*

## Pray

*Close with a prayer. Ask the kids to repeat each line after you.*

**Dear Jesus, we believe you left the tomb alive.**

**We believe that you are alive today.**

**Thank you for dying for us.**

**We love you.**

**We praise you. Amen.**

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

## Respond

*Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #135\* or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.*

*\*God's Big Story cards can be ordered from [FaithAliveResources.org](http://FaithAliveResources.org).*

## Easy Extra

*Before your session, gather a piece of lightweight cardboard, a plastic baggie or envelope, and coloring materials. If you're meeting virtually, you can mail the supplies to the children or ask their parents to gather them. If you don't have lightweight cardboard, any paper will work.*

*Give each person a piece of cardboard and explain that you are going to make puzzles. Have them draw a picture of one of the scenes in the story. The picture should completely fill the page. Or, if they prefer, have them write a message in large letters that fill the page, for example: *Jesus Is Alive!**

*When finished, have them cut the page into about 10-12 pieces, cutting in a combination of straight and curved lines. Send home the completed puzzles in envelopes or plastic baggies.*

## Story: On the Road to Emmaus [Luke 24:13-49](#)

*Open the Bible. Tell the kids that you will read the beginning verses of today's part of God's great big, amazing story. Read [Luke 24:13-14](#).*

It was the same day that Mary and Mary Magdalene saw Jesus near the empty tomb. Cleopas and another follower of Jesus were leaving Jerusalem. They walked slowly along the dusty road on the way to the town of Emmaus. They were trying to understand why Jesus had to die.

As they walked, they talked about the things that had just happened. Cleopas said, "The women are saying that Jesus is alive. If it's true—it's amazing! But how can that be? There are so many things I don't understand. If only Jesus were alive—he could have explained this all to me." **What things do you think Cleopas might have wanted to ask Jesus?** *(Pause for responses.)*

As they walked and talked, a stranger joined them. He asked the two, "What are you talking about? You both look so sad."

Cleopas answered, "You must be a visitor in town. Haven't you heard about all the things that have been happening in Jerusalem the past few days? Everyone in this whole town is talking about it."

"What things?" the stranger asked. **I wonder who this stranger might be. What do you think?** *(Pause for responses.)* *If some in your group are familiar with the story and know that the stranger is Jesus, follow up your question with, I wonder why they didn't recognize Jesus?*

Cleopas's friend continued the story. "Everyone is talking about Jesus. He was a great teacher and he did so many miracles. Three days ago Pilate told the soldiers to nail Jesus to a cross. Jesus died on that cross. We had so hoped that Jesus would be our king and save us."

Cleopas just had to jump into the conversation. He said, "Jesus has been dead three days already. This morning some of the women went to the tomb, but Jesus' body was gone. The tomb was empty. It's an amazing story. The women said there were angels at the tomb who told them Jesus was alive!"

The friend couldn't hold back any longer. "And it's not just the women who saw the empty tomb. Peter saw it too. But he didn't see Jesus."

Then the stranger spoke. "But isn't it true that these things had to happen? So why aren't you happy? The prophets said long, long ago that Jesus would suffer for his people."

Cleopas's ears perked up, and so did his friend's. They became more and more interested in this stranger who seemed to know so much. He answered many of the questions that had been bothering them. He was very wise.

**I wonder if you have an idea now who this stranger might be.** *(Pause for responses.)* *If your kids knew or have guessed that it was Jesus, ask, Why do you think the two friends still didn't realize it was Jesus?*

Before they knew it, they had arrived at Emmaus. Cleopas invited the stranger to stay with them for the night, or at least have supper with them. The stranger agreed to do that.

When they sat down to eat, the stranger took the bread and thanked God for it. Then he broke the bread and gave some to each of the two friends. When the stranger did that, Cleopas and his friend knew immediately who the stranger was. It was Jesus! Their mouths dropped wide open in surprise! But before they could say a word—Jesus was gone. He disappeared!

**I wonder why they recognized Jesus then.** *(Pause for responses.)* **What thoughts do you think were racing through their minds after they realized it was Jesus—and he disappeared?** *(Pause for responses.)*

They jumped up from the supper table, agreeing that they just had to go back to Jerusalem and tell the others that they had seen Jesus. They had walked with Jesus! Talked with Jesus! Sat down to supper with Jesus!

They ran as fast as they could right back to Jerusalem. Out of breath, they burst into the room at the place the disciples were gathered. "Jesus is alive!" shouted the disciples. "Peter has seen him!" "We know!" they shouted back. "We saw him too! We talked with him and walked with him."

Everyone was talking at once when suddenly another person appeared in the room. It was Jesus! "Peace!" Jesus said. "Peace be with you."

**Describe how you think everyone felt . . . what they said, the looks on their faces. . . .** *(Pause for responses.)*

At first everyone was afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost! They had just been talking about Jesus being alive. Some of them had seen him and talked to him. But when he was suddenly standing among them they were scared, thinking that he must be a ghost.

Jesus said, “Why are you afraid? Why do you doubt? Come here. Look at my hands. Look at my feet. It is truly me! Touch me and see for yourselves. A ghost doesn’t have skin and bones like I do.”

It was still hard to believe. The disciples were pretty much speechless. Jesus asked, “Do you have anything here to eat?” Someone gave him a piece of fish and he ate it. Yes indeed! Jesus was very much alive!

Jesus talked with the disciples for a long time that evening. He explained to them that everything had happened exactly the way God said it would. Then, just as suddenly as he had appeared, Jesus left them again.

Again they looked at each other in amazement. But now they knew for sure. It was true! Jesus was alive! They were filled with joy.

*Look back at the story symbol together. Ask kids how it reminds them of the story. What was the surprising—and true—fact the friends and the disciples learned?*

*Point out how everything that happened is a great mystery—Jesus dying, being buried, and rising from the grave. Tell the kids with certainty that God has power over death. Jesus has power over death. We know for sure that Jesus left the tomb alive and that he lives today! It’s a surprising but true fact.*

## **Looking for More Activities for This Story?**

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [2nd-3rd Grade: On the Road to Emmaus](#)
  - [6th-8th Grade: Easter: We Want to See Jesus](#)
  - [6th-8th Grade: Finding Your Way](#)
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