

## The Emmaus Disciples

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 24:13-35

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Ephesians 2:8-9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins and came back to life to show we are forgiven.

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## Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jesus' death and resurrection should not have surprised the disciples. Sometimes Jesus spoke metaphorically about His death and resurrection. (See Matt. 12:39; Mark 14:58; John 2:19; 3:14-15.) Other times, Jesus plainly told the disciples that He would be betrayed, crucified, buried, and resurrected on the third day. (Matt. 17:12; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22) In fact, Jesus had spoken so frequently of His death and resurrection, the chief priests and Pharisees asked Pilate to place guards at the tomb in case the disciples stole Jesus' body. (See Matt. 27:62-66.)

On resurrection morning, the angel at Jesus' tomb asked the women, "Why are you looking for the living among the

dead?” (Luke 24:5). Even when Peter and John ran to the empty tomb to see it for themselves, Peter was amazed but uncertain (Luke 24:12), while John believed (John 20:8).

That same day, two disciples were walking to Emmaus, arguing about recent events. Jesus began walking next to them, but God prevented them from recognizing Jesus. (Luke 24:16) Jesus simply asked them what they were arguing about. They stopped walking. How could He not have heard about what happened over the last three days?

The two disciples had hoped Jesus was the Redeemer of Israel. Their hopes were crushed when Jesus died. Now Jesus explained to them why the Messiah had to die, starting with Moses and the Prophets. Jesus showed how the Scriptures point to Him. (Luke 24:27; John 5:39)

Remind kids that the Bible is not a collection of unrelated stories. The whole Bible is about Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, God began working out His plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. (Gen. 3:15) All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection—the time when Jesus would bring God’s promised salvation for sinners.



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# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

## The Emmaus Disciples

*Luke 24:13-35*

### • **Pantomime it:**

Choose three volunteers to portray the two disciples and Jesus.

Guide them to walk in place, sit down to eat together, and act out talking together as you tell the Bible story.

- **Draw it out:** As you tell the story, sketch figures on a large piece of paper or dry erase board. Include two disciples and Jesus. Draw a road, and then draw a table and loaf of bread.

On the day that Jesus rose from the dead, two of Jesus' disciples were walking to a village called Emmaus (eh MAY uhs). The two disciples were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked, Jesus came and began to walk with them, but the disciples did not recognize Him.

Jesus asked the disciples, "What are you talking about?"

The disciples stopped walking. They looked sad. One of the disciples, Cleopas, answered, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what happened?"

"What happened?" Jesus asked.

So they told Him, "Jesus of Nazareth was a Prophet. He was powerful when He acted and spoke before God and all the people. The religious leaders handed Jesus over to be sentenced to death, and they nailed Him to a cross.

"We had hoped He was the One who would set Israel free. Besides, it's the third day since these things happened. Early this morning, some women went to the tomb and did not find Jesus' body. They saw angels, who said that Jesus is alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb, and they too saw that the tomb was empty."

Jesus said, "You are foolish to not believe what the prophets said! Isn't this what had to happen to the Messiah?" Then, beginning with Moses and the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what all the Scriptures said about Him.

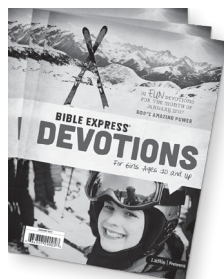
Jesus and the two disciples arrived at Emmaus, and they asked Jesus to stay with them. So Jesus joined them

at the dinner table. He took the bread, thanked God for it, and broke it into pieces. Then He gave the pieces to the disciples. Right away, the men recognized Jesus! But Jesus immediately disappeared from their sight.

The two disciples thought about their walk to Emmaus. They said, “When Jesus talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures, didn’t our hearts feel like they were on fire?”

**The disciples immediately left Emmaus and went back to Jerusalem. They found Jesus’ eleven disciples and others who gathered with them. They told them what happened. They said, “Simon saw Jesus too! Jesus is alive!”**

*Christ Connection: The whole Bible is about Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, God began working out His plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection—the time when Jesus would bring God’s promised salvation for sinners.*



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# Introduce the STORY

**SESSION TITLE:** The Emmaus Disciples

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 24:13-35

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Ephesians 2:8-9

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why did Jesus die on the cross? Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins and came back to life to show we are forgiven.

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## Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to tell about a time they went on a long walk. How far did they go? Where did they go? Did they walk with anyone else?

## Activity page (5 minutes)

- “On the Road” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete “On the Road” on the activity page. Kids should connect the dots to discover who appeared to two disciples walking on the road. (*Jesus*)

**SAY** • Imagine walking along when suddenly Jesus starts walking with you! That’s what happened to two men in our Bible story today.

## Session starter (10 minutes)

**OPTION 1:** Guess who

Choose a kid to be *It*. Give each player paper and a pencil. *It* will stand at the front of the room and write down the name of another kid in the room. Call on kids one at a time to ask yes-or-no questions about the chosen person. For example, “Is this person wearing glasses?” or “Does this



LOW PREP

- paper
- pencils

person have dark hair?” Kids may use their papers to take notes if they wish.

On a kid’s turn, he may guess the identity of the chosen person: “Is this person [*person’s name*]?” If the player guesses correctly, show the name written on *It*’s paper. The player who guessed correctly now becomes *It*. Play multiple rounds as time allows.

Option: If a player’s guess is incorrect, he is out. (This encourages kids to ask questions.)

**SAY** • Great job, everyone. You collected hints about a person to determine who he or she was. In today’s Bible story, two disciples were walking along the road. Jesus was with them, but they didn’t recognize Him! We are going to hear how they figured out who He was.

## **OPTION 2:** Blind toss

Position kids on one side of the room and place a small trash can in the center of the room. Blindfold one kid. Challenge her to toss table tennis balls into the trash can.

- blindfold
- table tennis balls
- clean, empty trash can or plastic bucket

Keep track of how many land in the trash can. Allow other kids to take turns as time allows. Congratulate the player who gets the most balls into the can.

**SAY** • It was difficult to toss the balls into the can when you couldn’t see. Many of the people in Jesus’ day could see Jesus physically, but they were blind in the sense that they didn’t understand who He truly was.

Today’s Bible story is about two men who were blind to the whole truth about Jesus, but Jesus made them see.

## **Transition to teach the story**

# Teach the STORY

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## Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as the session begins.

## Introduce the session (3 minutes)

- leader attire
- backpack
- gallon of water
- folded map
- compass
- Bible

*[Leader enters wearing a backpack and carrying a gallon of water. Leader sets down the water and backpack on a table and unpacks a folded map, compass, and a Bible.]*

**LEADER** • Regional map ... check! Compass ... check!

Bible ... check! Binoculars ... oh, drat. I knew I forgot something.

Well, I guess the good news is that this is my last week as a volunteer assistant for the Lackanada Search and Rescue Squad. Those binoculars sure would have come in handy today, though. I was going to hike up to the top of the ridge and look out to the mountains miles away. When you step back, the view is amazing! You can see things you would never have seen just standing under one big tree.

*[Hold up the Bible.]* You know, that's what the disciples in today's Bible story learned. They were witnesses to the greatest search and rescue of all time,

and Jesus helped them get a better look at what was going on.

## Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • Let's review our big picture question before we get started. *Why did Jesus die on the cross?* [Call on kids to answer.] *Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins and came back to life to show we are forgiven.*

## Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline or big story circle.

**LEADER** • Wow, so all these stories we have heard from the Bible—all the way back to God creating the world—fit together to tell us the bigger story of God's plan to rescue sinners through His Son.

We have this timeline to help us understand what God's plan was all along, but back when these things were happening, it wasn't so clear what God was up to. In today's Bible story, "The Emmaus Disciples," we will see how Jesus helped some disciples understand all the Scriptures. Check this out.

• Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

## Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 24:13-35. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "The Emmaus Disciples."

**LEADER** • Jesus' two disciples were walking on the road to Emmaus. They were very sad about Jesus' death, and they didn't know what to think about the women's report that Jesus was alive. They were arguing about

• Bibles  
• "The Emmaus Disciples" video  
• Big Picture Question Poster  
• Bible Story Picture Poster



whether Jesus was really alive when He appeared and began walking down the road with them. Only, they didn't know it was Jesus. The Bible says they were prevented from recognizing Him. Jesus asked them what they were arguing about, and the question actually made them stop in their tracks.

One of the disciples basically asked Jesus if He had been paying attention at all. All of Jerusalem had witnessed Jesus' triumphal entry and then His death on the cross. Jesus' disciples had scattered when He was arrested, but the two disciples traveling to Emmaus had heard rumors that Mary and the other women had seen Jesus. They weren't sure what to believe!

What did Jesus say to the disciples? Jesus said they were unwise and slow to believe. Hadn't Jesus told them that He would die on the cross and rise from the dead on the third day? Besides that, didn't the prophets explain that the Messiah would have to suffer and die to take away our sins?

Jesus began at the very beginning. When the Bible says He started with Moses and all the prophets, that means Jesus began with Moses' writings—the first five books of the Bible—and continued through the Old Testament. **Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.**

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

## Christ connection

**LEADER** • The whole Bible is about Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, we begin to see God's working out His plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus' life,

death, and resurrection—the time when Jesus would bring God’s promised salvation for sinners.

When someone trusts in Jesus as Lord and Savior, God forgives his sins and welcomes him into God’s family. The New Testament teaches believers how to live as members of God’s kingdom.

### **Key passage (5 minutes)**

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Ephesians 2:8-9.

- Key Passage Poster
- “Saved by Grace” song

**LEADER • Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to**

**Him.** The Bible isn’t a rulebook for how to be good enough to get to heaven. God does tell us how we should live as believers, but the whole story is about God’s plan to save undeserving sinners. All we do to receive His gift of salvation is believe. That’s grace.

Let’s sing.

Lead boys and girls in singing “Saved by Grace.”

### **Discussion starter video (4 minutes)**

**LEADER •** If you wanted to know more about something, you might go to the library. Check out this video.

Show the “Unit 26, Session 3” discussion starter video.

Guide kids to discuss these questions:

- Where can we learn about Jesus?
- How do we know that the Bible is about Jesus?
- What can you do if you read something in the Bible that you don’t understand?

- “Unit 26, Session 3” discussion starter video

**LEADER • Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to**

**Him.** God gave us His Word to help us know Him. The Bible is all we need to know and love God.

• “This Is the Moment”  
song

## **Sing (4 minutes)**

**LEADER** • In many ways, we are like the disciples on their way to Emmaus. Understanding God’s plan can be difficult, but I am so thankful for His Word that tells us everything we need to know about Him and about ourselves. Let’s sing.

Sing together “This Is the Moment.”

## **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

**LEADER** • Father God, open our eyes. Give us eyes to see who You are. Give us eyes to see who *we* are. We need You, and we look to Jesus as our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## **Dismiss to apply the story**

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

# Apply the STORY

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## Key passage activity (5 minutes)

• Key Passage Poster

Form two teams of kids. Show the key passage poster and lead them to say the key passage aloud together. Call for the first team to read the passage and then the second team.

Challenge teams to say the verse in their softest voice, fastest voice, happiest voice, and so on. Invite kids who have memorized Ephesians 2:8-9 to recite the key passage without looking at the poster.

**SAY** • God's Word reminds us what is true. Ephesians 2:8-9 tells us how we are saved from sin and death. Are we saved by being nice people? (*No!*) Are we saved by doing good things? (*No!*) Salvation is a gift—we believe in Jesus by faith and receive forgiveness and eternal life with open hands.

## Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

• Bibles, 1 per kid  
• Main Point Poster

Distribute Bibles and remind kids that Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him. He began with Moses, who wrote the first five books of the Bible. Challenge kids to name the first five books of the Bible. (*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*)

For an added challenge, prompt kids to name the books

of the Old Testament prophets.

Encourage boys and girls to find Luke 24:13-35. Lead them to refer to the passage as they answer the following review questions:

1. Two of Jesus' disciples were talking to what town? (*Emmaus, Luke 24:13*)
2. What had the disciples hoped Jesus would do for Israel? (*set Israel free, Luke 24:21*)
3. When did the disciples recognize Jesus? (*at dinner when He broke the bread, Luke 24:30-31*)
4. Where did the disciples go after Jesus disappeared? (*back to Jerusalem, Luke 24:33*)

Now guide kids to discuss these questions:

- How do you think the disciples must have felt to finally realize the person they saw was Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection?
- What can we do when we read something in the Bible that we don't understand?

## Activity choice (10 minutes)

**OPTION 1:** Closed-eyes drawings

Give each kid a piece of paper. Provide pencils or crayons.

Guide kids to fold their paper in half. Kids will draw on one half of the paper at a time.

Blindfold kids or instruct them to close their eyes.

Explain that they will follow your instructions to draw a picture. Give the following commands, pausing after each one for kids to draw.

1. Draw an oval.
2. Draw the letter *T* inside the oval.
3. Draw the letter *V* on top of the oval.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.



- paper
- pencils or crayons
- blindfolds (optional)

4. Add three short lines on the outside of each side of the oval.

Guide kids to take off their blindfolds or open their eyes. Compare their drawings. They should slightly resemble six-legged bugs with antennae.

Now repeat the commands, allowing them to draw with their eyes open. Compare their drawings with the first drawings. If time allows, turn over the paper and play again with your own instructions.

**SAY** • Your pictures are so much clearer when your eyes were opened! When Jesus met with the disciples, **Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.** He opened their eyes so they realized who He was. When we don't understand something about God, we can pray and ask God to open our eyes and help us understand.

**OPTION 2:** Old Testament pointers

Before the session, print and cut apart the “Old Testament Pointers” cards. Form two or three teams of kids. Provide a Bible for each kid and encourage them to turn to the table of contents as a reference for books of the Bible.

Read a clue card relating to how a book of the Old Testament points to Jesus. The first team to correctly guess the Bible book earns a point. Allow one player from the team to shoot a ball about 15 feet toward a basket. If the player lands the ball in the basket, award another point.

**SAY** • When Jesus walked with the disciples, He explained the Scriptures to them. **Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.** The disciples did not recognize Jesus right away, but He joined them at the dinner table and when He broke the bread, they

- “Old Testament Pointers” printable
- empty basket or trash can
- ball

knew who He was. The disciples realized that Jesus had been raised from the dead and was alive. Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies, and He is the true Messiah.

The whole Bible is about Jesus. It tells us the story of God's plan to save sinners through His Son, Jesus. All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—the time when Jesus would bring God's promised salvation for sinners. ***Jesus died on the cross to save us from our sins and came back to life to show we are forgiven.***

## Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

While kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then lead kids in prayer. Thank God for His Word. Ask for the Holy Spirit to guide kids as they read the Bible and help them understand God's great plan.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "All About Him" on the activity page. Encourage kids to look up the Bible passages and match each Old Testament Scripture to Scripture from the New Testament.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "All About Him" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.