

LESSON 5

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Surprises Us

SCRIPTURE: [Luke 24](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY: After His death and resurrection, Jesus appears to two of His followers as they are walking on the road to Emmaus. At first they don't recognize Him, but Jesus opens their eyes to the surprising truth that He is alive.

Free Play

Declaration

Worship

Snack

God's Big Story

Prayer and Blessing

Activity: Hide and Surprise

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

The two individuals dragging themselves to Emmaus were about as discouraged as humanly possible. They thought Jesus would set all things right, rid the neighborhood of Romans, and lead Israel back to the glorious days of King David's reign.

Instead, they saw Him arrested, tortured, murdered.

As you read [Luke 24:13–49](#), notice that Cleopas and his friend had already heard reports that Jesus had risen, yet they were still sad. Perhaps they didn't quite believe the stories. Perhaps they thought that because Jesus had been crucified He couldn't be the all-powerful Redeemer of Israel after all.

They perked up when a stranger fell into step with them and explained what the Scripture said about the Messiah. That was a pleasant surprise.

But what transformed them, what set them alight, was the realization that they were with Jesus. Surprised? Yes. Delighted? Absolutely. Changed forever? In an instant.

This week as you lead, ask the Holy Spirit to deliver an Emmaus moment to your kids. For there to come a time when kids realize Jesus isn't just out there somewhere but rather is in the room. He's with them. And He wants to be with them forever.

How will that look? I have no idea, but I'm 100 percent certain His desire is to be real in the minds and hearts of your kids ... and you.

And He's not above springing a surprise or two to make that happen. So pray for a surprise. And, when you see it, be grateful.

You know who's behind it.

DID YOU KNOW?**WHO?**

Two of Jesus' followers were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. One was named Cleopas, perhaps the same person as the Clopas mentioned in [John 19:25](#). The identity of the other is unknown.

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**WHAT?**

The risen Jesus appeared to two of His followers on the road to Emmaus, but they didn't recognize Him. Jesus explained to them what was written in Scripture about the Messiah. Later, Jesus broke bread with them, and their eyes were opened to recognize Him.

WHERE?

The exact location of Emmaus is debated. Two suggestions are el-Qubeibeh, which was seven miles northwest of Jerusalem, and Amwas, which was 18 miles northwest of Jerusalem.

WHEN?

Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus the third day after His death, the same day Mary and the other women discovered the empty tomb and some of the disciples went to see it. This was after that but before Jesus appeared to the gathered disciples.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus' resurrection means His followers' hopes have been realized and the promises of Scripture have been fulfilled. Jesus is the Messiah, and the good news of His salvation will spread to the ends of the earth.

Free Play

As kids arrive...

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church. Use this unstructured time to get to know kids and play alongside them!

Clean Up

At the end of free play...

Play the Clean Up video and encourage kids to help put away toys and activities to prepare for worship, snack, and story time. After working together to clean up, gather kids on sit spots to get started.

Declaring God's Wonder

Welcome to church today, friends! I am so glad you're here. Let's say these words together.

Thank You, God, that You made me! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

March like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").

Intro

Two of Jesus' followers were traveling from Jerusalem to a town called Emmaus. Let's pretend we're Jesus' followers and travel to Emmaus too! First, let's walk to Emmaus. Encourage toddlers to walk from one side of the room to the other. **Next, let's crawl to Emmaus!** Invite toddlers to crawl from one side of the room to the other. **Now, let's run as fast as we can to Emmaus!** Encourage toddlers to run from one side of the room to the other.

Play this game several times, switching up the mode of travel.

We'll see today how Jesus surprised His friends when they were sad. Jesus sometimes surprises us, too!

Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS SURPRISES US.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS—*Point upward.*

SURPRISES—*Put your hands on your face and act surprised.*

US—*Put both thumbs to your chest.*

Worship

SUPPLIES: Worship music videos

Today we'll learn in God's big story how God surprises us with His presence through His Son, Jesus! Let's sing together and worship Jesus.

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

Snack

SUPPLIES: small paper cups, cheerios, pitcher of water

Gather kids around tables and serve snacks. Begin the Bible story while kids are busy eating.

God's Big Story

Our story today is a great story from the Bible about two of Jesus' followers. Encourage the kids to say, "Jesus' followers." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Jesus' followers!**

Let me tell you what happened before the story we're going to hear today. You might remember this. Jesus died on the cross, but then, he came back to life three days later.

Encourage kids to clap. **He was alive!**

Later that day, two of Jesus' followers were walking down the road. On the way, they were talking about what had happened to Jesus. Then, all of a sudden, Jesus was there with them! But the two men did not know it was Jesus.

"Jesus asked them, 'What are you talking about as you walk along?' " (Luke 24:17). They looked sad. Make a sad face. The two men told Him how Jesus died on the cross. They told how the women went to the tomb and saw that it was empty. Jesus walked and talked with the men. He talked with them about what the Bible says.

They got to a town called Emmaus. Jesus kept walking, but the men asked Him to stay with them and eat. At the table, Jesus took some bread and thanked God. When He did, they got a surprise! Encourage the kids to jump up and shout, "Surprise!" Now they knew that it was Jesus! He rose from the dead, and He was alive! Then He was gone.

So, the men went to Jerusalem, where more of Jesus' followers were, and told the people there what happened. Jesus was alive! Jesus had one more surprise for His followers! Encourage the kids to jump up and shout, "Surprise!" Jesus appeared and stood with them. Everyone, shout, "Surprise!" Allow kids to shout, jump, and celebrate. Jesus gave His followers the biggest surprise of their lives! Invite kids to sit down again. He was—and still is—real!

Jesus died and came back to life. He is alive forever. People who trust Him to save them from sin can be forgiven. Jesus is alive! Jesus surprises us!

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God. God, thank You for always being with us, even if we don't recognize You. Give us eyes to see You working in our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May the Lord bless you with eyes to see Him, ears to listen to Him, and hearts to love Him. Amen.

Activity: Hide and Surprise

SUPPLIES: parachute or large blanket

Jesus' followers didn't recognize Jesus right away. Jesus surprised them! Let's surprise each other in this game to remember how Jesus surprises us in our lives!

Have several leaders hold the edges of the parachute so it is taut. Encourage toddlers to stand in a group under the parachute. Every time you say, "Hide!" lower the parachute to hide the toddlers. When you lift up the parachute say, "Surprise!"