

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.

MEMORY VERSE: I will spend time thinking about everything you have done. —[Psalm 77:12](#)

CURIOSITY

Interactive activities to help kids begin thinking about the wonder of God.

- Free Play
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Memory Verse: [Psalm 77:12](#)

FAITH

An intentional interactive discussion that helps kids discover the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own.

- Circle Time: Discussion
- Prayer and Blessing

CLOSING

Interactive options to reinforce the lesson and keep kids engaged during pick up.

- Recognize Me
- Jesus Is Here

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.

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Free Play

As kids arrive...

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and help them find a game or activity to enjoy until the lesson begins. This is a great opportunity to build relationships by playing right alongside them!

PRO TIP: This is also a great opportunity for a bathroom reminder!

Countdown Video

At the end of free play...

Play the Clean Up video to signal time to put away toys and activities. After working together to clean up, gather kids on sit spots, chairs, or benches to begin the lesson.

Declaring God's Wonder

At your start time...

SUPPLIES: Early Childhood Declaration Slide

Show the [Declaration Slide](#) if you choose, and encourage the kids to say it with you and do the motions.

Let's get started by saying these words together. You can repeat after me:

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

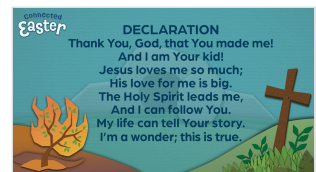
Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

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").

Curiosity Activity: Shadow Surprises

SUPPLIES: variety of small toys, flashlight

Select a clear portion of a wall to use as a screen. Set aside a variety of small toys where kids can't see them. Invite the kids to sit facing the wall. Let kids know that you will be turning the lights off.

Hi, everybody! I'm so glad you're here today! Today we're talking about how we can figure out what something is even if we don't know right away. So we're going to practice trying to figure out what something is even when it's hard to know right away. Pay attention to what you see on the wall as we turn off the lights. Turn off the lights and shine the flashlight, from behind the kids and on the wall.

We're going to guess what objects I'm holding up just by their shadow. Are you ready? Let's go! Hold up various toys so that their shadow hits the wall. Allow kids to guess what the object is. Repeat several times.

Great job! I've got one last thing to figure out! Have a leader stand in front of the flashlight without the kids seeing which leader it is. **Who could this be?** Allow kids to answer. **Great guesses, everyone!** Turn the lights back on and invite kids to turn and see which leader it was.

Today we're going to be talking about a couple of people who, surprisingly, didn't recognize their very best friend—Jesus! And these people weren't looking at a shadow; they were looking right at Jesus. You might ask why they didn't recognize Him. Well, it's because Jesus wanted to surprise His friends. Sometimes Jesus appears in our lives when we least expect Him. Jesus surprises us! We'll learn more about that in our lesson today!

The logo for Wonder Ink, featuring the word "Wonder" in a multi-colored font (orange, green, blue, yellow) above the word "Ink" in a blue font with a registered trademark symbol. The logo is set against a dark blue background.

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Belief

LESSON 5 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Surprises Us

SCRIPTURE: [Luke 24](#)

MEMORY VERSE: [Psalm 77:12](#)

Worship

SUPPLIES: Worship music videos

Today we'll learn about how Jesus surprises us. Let's sing and thank Jesus!

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Dear God, we believe that You love us and take care of us. Please come near to us as we learn about You today. Sometimes we don't recognize it, but You're always with us. Thank You for always caring for us. Thank You for surprising us with Your love every day! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, "Surprise" banner, [God's Big Story Video](#)

Before the story, write, "Surprise!" on a butcher paper banner and tape the banner to one wall.

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them that today's story comes from the book of Luke in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Let's hear part of God's big story, a part that comes from the book of Luke in the Bible.

God's Big STORY SCRIPT: THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

To prepare to hear today's story, let's go back just a bit to remember what has happened in God's big story ... Jesus died and then came back to life three days later. The tomb was empty. He was alive! Now for today's part of the story. Later that day, two of Jesus' followers walked to a place called Emmaus. On the way, they talked about what had happened to their friend, Jesus. Then Jesus was there with them! But the two men did not know it was Jesus at first.

Jesus asked, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" (Luke 24:17). They looked sad. One of the men said, "Are you the only person visiting Jerusalem who doesn't know? Don't you know about the things that have happened there in the last few days?" (Luke 24:18). Jesus did know. But He asked what they meant anyway.

The two men told Him what had happened. They told 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 said.

Let's all stand up and pretend to walk to Emmaus like Jesus and these two followers! Invite the kids to stand and gather on one side of the room. Then walk from that side to the other. Encourage kids to turn to their neighbors and act like they are talking to each other. When you get to the other side of the room, say, "**Excellent walking!**" Invite the kids to sit down. **If you recognized the person walking beside you, raise your hand!** Allow kids to answer. **Right! Because you know the other kids in our group. However, Jesus' followers didn't recognize Jesus at first. Let's keep learning to see what happened.**

They got to Emmaus. Jesus kept walking, but the men did not want Him to leave. They asked Him to stay with them and eat. At the table, Jesus took some bread and thanked God. He broke the bread. Then Jesus gave it to the two men. When He did, they got a surprise! Now they knew that it was Jesus! He rose from the dead, and He was alive! Encourage the kids to jump up and shout, "Surprise!" **They knew then why their hearts felt excited when they walked with Jesus! Then, just like that, He was gone.**

Invite the kids to gather at the "Emmaus" wall. **Now let's all run back from Emmaus to Jerusalem, like these men might have done! On your mark, get set, go!** Allow the kids to run to the other side of the room. Encourage them to sit back down. **Can you imagine walking all the way to one town just to turn around and run back a few hours later? That's just what these followers of Jesus did after they recognized Jesus!**

The men went to Jerusalem, where more of Jesus' followers were. They heard that Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, had also seen Jesus. The two men told the people there what happened. Jesus was alive!

Jesus had one more surprise for His followers! Encourage the kids to gather under the "Surprise!" banner. Let the kids know that the lights will be turned off, then turn off the lights. **I'll tell you the next part of the story. And when the lights come on, you can shout, "Surprise!" and act like we're throwing a surprise party!**

Leader Tip: If your group prefers to keep the lights on, encourage the kids to hide behind chairs or under tables, then jump out when you say, "Surprise!"

Then the disciples got a big surprise! Jesus appeared and stood with them. Turn on the lights. Everyone shout, “Surprise!” Allow kids to shout, jump, and throw a surprise party. **Jesus gave His followers the biggest surprise of their lives!** Invite the kids to sit down again. **Jesus said, “May you have peace!”** (Luke 24:36). **They were scared, so they needed peace. Was Jesus really alive? Jesus showed them where His hands and feet had been hurt on the cross. Jesus said they could touch Him and see that He had a body and bones. He was 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!

Watch God's Big Story

Watch the [Road to Emmaus God's Big Story Video!](#)



Connecting the Wonder Truth

Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS SURPRISES US!**

When Jesus rose from the dead, it showed that God's promises are true! Everything that Jesus' followers had hoped for was happening! Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior who makes the way for us to be forgiven and live with God forever. After He came back to life, the good news of Jesus spread to people all over the world, including us!

Memory Verse

SUPPLIES: [Connected Easter Word of Wonder Slide](#)



MEMORY VERSE

I will spend time thinking about everything you have done.

—Psalm 77:12

Let's practice our memory verse together a couple of times. Say it with me! "I will spend time thinking about everything you have done," Psalm 77:12. Let's hold up a finger for each word that we say! I: Hold up 1 finger. **Will:** Hold up 2 fingers. **Spend:** Hold up 3 fingers. **Time:** Hold up 4 fingers. **Thinking:** Hold up 5 fingers. **About:** Hold up 6 fingers. **Everything:** Hold up 7 fingers. **You:** Hold up 8 fingers. **Have:** Hold up 9 fingers. **Done:** Hold up 10 fingers. **Psalm 77:12:** Hold up 10 fingers, then hold up 1 finger to make 11.

Great job, everyone! Now let's say the verse together with every step we take.

Help kids form a single file line. Stand at the front of the line and say the first word of the verse while you take one step, inviting kids to follow you. Keep going, saying one word of the verse at a time, while stepping around the room. Increase the difficulty of the game by taking bigger steps or even hops.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **I WILL SPEND TIME THINKING ABOUT**—*Point to head.*
- **EVERYTHING**—*Stretch hands out in front of you with palms together, then spread arms out wide.*
- **YOU HAVE DONE.**—*Point up.*
- **PSALM 77:12**—*Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.*

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What are some amazing things God has done?**
- **What could help us remember and think about these amazing things that God has done?**



Faith

LESSON 5 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Divide kids into small groups for discussion, prayer, and memory verse practice. Pass out coloring sheets to keep hands busy during discussion. Don't forget to say the memory verse and award prizes!

Circle Time: Discussion

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Where were the followers of Jesus walking to?** (*Emmaus*)
- **What did Jesus talk to His followers about while walking to Emmaus?** (*He talked with them about what the Bible says.*)
- **What did Jesus' two followers do when they recognized Jesus?** (*ran back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples*)
- **How would you have felt if you were with the disciples when Jesus appeared?**
- **How could we recognize Jesus if He surprised us now?**
- **Why is it important that Jesus is alive forever?**

Sometimes we don't recognize Jesus, but He is always with us. Jesus surprises us! Even in our worst circumstances. Let's talk to God now in prayer!

Invite the kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for the fact that Jesus is with us and surprises us.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish, pray with them and thank God for surprising us with His presence.

Father God, thank You for always being with us. We know You are with us. Sometimes, it may be hard to feel Your presence. Thank You for surprising us with Your presence, even in our difficult times! 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.



Closing

LESSON 5 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Use the following activities to reinforce the lesson and keep kids engaged during pick up.

Option 1: Recognize Me!

SUPPLIES: large blanket

Jesus' followers didn't recognize Him the first time they saw Him on the road to Emmaus. Let's see if we can recognize each other!

First, let's go around and tell each other our names. Allow kids to share their first names.

Awesome! It'll be important for us to know each other's names to play our game.

For this game, we'll split into two teams. Place kids into two teams. Have the teams sit opposite each other with some space between them. Have two leaders hold up a large blanket between the teams so that the blanket prevents the teams from seeing each other. **I will call on one person from each team to come sit facing the blanket. I'll call you up by pointing to you instead of saying your name. On the count of three, the leaders will drop the blanket. When the blanket is dropped, you'll be face-to-face with someone from the other team. Your job is to say the other person's name before that person says yours. If you get stuck, your team can help! OK, leaders, make sure that blanket is in place!** Invite one kid up from each team to sit and face the blanket. Make sure the kids don't say the name of the person sitting right in front of the blanket. Count to three. Have leaders drop the blanket and encourage the kids to say the name of the person sitting on the other side.

Leader Tip: Ask two leaders or older kids to hold the blanket up between the two teams. Add more rounds of sharing each other's names before play if your group is new to each other.

Repeat this game with everyone who wants to play.

That was pretty fun! Some of you are really quick! Sometimes it takes a while for us to recognize the person in front of us. That's just what happened to Jesus' followers as they walked with Him to Emmaus. They didn't know it, but Jesus was always with them. And when Jesus made Himself known, He did it in a big way! Jesus is always with us, but sometimes He shows up in our lives in unusual ways. Jesus surprises us!

Option 2: Jesus Is Here!

Let's play a game to remind us of what we learned today. Jesus' followers went from Jerusalem to Emmaus and all the way back to Jerusalem in one day. They did this so they could share that Jesus is here! He is alive!

Decide which side of the room will be "Emmaus" and which will be "Jerusalem." **I'm going to give you some instructions, so listen closely! When I say, "Emmaus," run to this side.** Indicate the "Emmaus" side. **When I say, "Jerusalem," run to the other side.** Indicate the "Jerusalem" side. **Let's practice! Emmaus!** Allow kids to run to the correct side. **Jerusalem!** Allow kids to run to the correct side.

While you're going back and forth from Jerusalem to Emmaus, you'll need to listen to my instructions! I could say, "Get into groups of three people and pray!" Or "Get into groups of four people and act surprised!" And if I say, "Jesus is here!" everyone should freeze until I say the next instruction. Let's practice! Get into groups of three and pray! Allow kids to get into groups of three and pretend to pray. **Get into groups of four and act surprised!** Allow kids to get into groups of four and act surprised. **Jesus is here!** Remind kids that this instruction means they are "frozen in surprise" and can't move until you say the next directive. **Got it? Let's play!**

Alternate between saying "Emmaus" and "Jerusalem." Every so often, add an instruction such as "Get into groups of three and pray," "Get into groups of four and act surprised," or "Jesus is here!"