

Lesson Plans that Work
Year A – Third Sunday of Easter
Lesson Plans for Adults

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

“I have seen the Lord!” exclaimed Mary Magdalene. At first she does not recognize who is standing beside her. When she realizes it is the risen Jesus she wants to grasp him. He holds her off and tells her to go and share what has happened: He has walked through death and has created a path for us to follow, now and on through our own death.

In these 50 days of Easter, celebrating what Jesus has done for us, we are invited to recognize Jesus standing beside us, as he did with Mary. What is he calling us to do? Perhaps we can train our eyes to look in the direction that this Jesus, standing beside us is looking. What might he be looking at? Do we dare follow where he is leading? Can we notice and honor the various ways Jesus “appears” to people?

A Notation for This Week’s Gospel

The master teacher walks with the two dejected disciples. He listens. He asks leading questions. He waits for the teachable moment to offer information. And it is in the breaking of the bread that they realize who it is that has come among them.

Theme: Known in the Breaking of the Bread

Before Class: You will need Bibles or copies of the scripture, pieces of paper and pencils or pens.

Beginning: Tell the group that today’s passage provides excellent insight into how a master teacher operates. Suggest they be looking for hints we can use when we are being called to teach.

Opening Prayer: Thank you, God, for the patience Christ appears to have with us. Amen.

The Scripture: Luke 24: 13-35 Tell the group that you will read the entire passage, freeing the group to make notes on the teaching style of Jesus in this passage. Make available the paper and pencils or pens.

Invite people to read the following parts: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Jesus, Cleopas ,Two Disciples, and Companions.

Questions:

- What is it that the two men are processing as they walk the 7 miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus? (They have not been at any of the places where the disciples have encountered the Risen Jesus. They have heard the accounts and are trying to believe them.)
- Why do you think they did not recognize Jesus when he started to walk among them? (From the other encounters with the Risen Jesus, no one recognizes him at first.)
- What notes did the group take about Jesus’ teaching style? (Draw out the facts that he listens, then asks leading questions, and then waits for the teachable moment to teach.)

- Why do we think Jesus was prepared to keep on walking when they reached Emmaus? (Jesus seems to wait for an invitation before coming among us.)
- When do the two recognize Jesus? (In the breaking of the bread.)
- How do they then process what they have experienced? (Verse 32)
- What do they do next? (They race back the seven miles, all uphill, to Jerusalem to tell the disciples what has happened.)

Getting Closure: Ask the group to offer insights on how we might apply Jesus' style of teaching in the teaching situations we find ourselves: with employees, children, friends who are curious about our faith, etc.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, that Jesus comes among us when we least expect him. Amen.

Luke 24:13-35

Narrator 1: Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them,

Jesus: ‘What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?’

Narrator 2: They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him,

Cleopas: ‘Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?’

Jesus: ‘What things?’

Two Disciples: ‘The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.’

Jesus: ‘Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?’

Narrator 1: Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

Narrator 2: As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying,

Two Disciples: ‘Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.’

Narrator 1: So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other,

Disciples: ‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?’

Narrator 2: That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying,

Companions: ‘The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!’

Narrator 1: Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Printed by the Office for Formation and Vocation Ministries of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, 815 Second Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.

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