

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

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: Cut circles 3-4 inches in diameter from pale-colored paper (yellow or pale blue) for each child with a few spares. You will also need crayons and straight pins to secure the drawings to the worship space cloth.

Beginning: As the children gather, ask them to help you set up your worship space, putting the cloth on the table or box and placing items you have gathered on it, pinning the work done last week to the cloth. If a child is with you who was not there before, be sure the child has the space explained and that we will be adding decorations to the cloth each week. Then, gather the children in a circle around the worship space and light the candle. Remember to blow it out after the story.

Praying: Thank you, God, for this time to gather around our worship space and hear a story you sent us. Amen.

The Story: Today’s story is about two of Jesus’ friends who were walking together. They were sad. They missed their friend, Jesus. As they walked along, trying to figure things out, another man came along and walked with them. “What are you guys talking about?” the man asked. So they started to tell the man about their friend; they loved him, he had gotten killed, and they were sad. The man walked along with them and explained things to them. He told them that the Bible tells us that Jesus would come, be killed, and then come back. “Oh please stay and have some supper with us,” the two said to the man. “Okay,” he said. Before they started to eat, the man picked up the loaf of bread, said a prayer, and gave each of them some of the bread. Then he was gone! Just vanished! That was when the two friends realized just who it was that was walking

with them. It really was Jesus. They were so excited they ran all the way back to where their other friends were and said, “Yes! Jesus is back!”

Activity: Let’s act out this story. We will need two people to be the friends taking the walk and one to be Jesus. (Any other children will be the friends the two rush back to talk to. Then they can act out the story again, and the others can be the friends and Jesus.) Tell the children that the walk takes a long time, so they can walk around the room a time or two before Jesus appears to them. The children may need some coaching: the two walk, then a third person starts to walk with them asking them what they are talking about, and then the invitation to supper and the breaking of the bread. Then they race back to where their other friends are meeting.

Activity: Decorations Give the children the circles and ask them to draw whatever they want about this story.

Getting Closure: Invite the children to tell about his or her drawing and let the child decide where the drawing needs to go on the worship space cloth.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, that Jesus is right here with us. Amen.

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

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.

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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 to make copies of the script found at the end of the lesson. Bring a map of your town or a computer that has a map of our town so you and the children can determine a place that is seven miles from your church, or two locations that are seven miles apart.

Beginning: Show the children the map you have brought and ask them to find two places that are seven miles apart, imagine walking that distance, and then running back to the starting place. Ask them how long they think it would take to walk these seven miles? Tell them that our story today involves such a walk.

Opening Prayer: Thank you, God, that Jesus shows up when we least expect him. Amen.

The Story: Luke 24: 13-35 Invite children to read the following parts: Narrator 1, Narrator 2, Jesus, Cleopas, Two Disciples, and Companions.

Questions:

- Where are the two men going in verse 13? (To the town of Emmaus seven miles away.)
- Why do you think the two did not recognize Jesus at first? (Mary Magdalene, Peter and John did not recognize him at first, nor did Thomas. His appearance evidently had changed with the Resurrection.)
- Why do you think Jesus waited so long to answer their worried questions? (Perhaps it is because he is a good teacher who listens to find out what people already know and what they are ready to learn.)

- What did the men explain to the man they did not recognize as Jesus? (verse 24)
- Why do you think Jesus was just going to walk on? (Verse 28. It seems that Jesus waits to be invited in.)
- When do the two realize that their companion is Jesus? (Verse 31)
- What do they do then? (They rush back the seven miles to Jerusalem to tell the 11 disciples that they have seen Jesus.)

Activity: Tell the children that you are going to pretend to be one of the people who have NOT yet seen Jesus. You want the children to pretend they are each one of the two people who walked to Emmaus and then ran back to Jerusalem. Tell them to keep their copy of the story in front of them to help tell you the story. Ask them questions that let them tell you what the two men said. (Examples: Who did you think this man was when he joined you? Why do you think you did not recognize Jesus right away? What kinds of things did you tell him? When did you begin to suspect he was someone special? (Verse 32) When were you sure it was Jesus? (Verse 31)

Option: If the weather cooperates, and your situation allows, go outside, decide where Jerusalem is in your yard and where Emmaus would be (obviously, less than seven miles apart!) and act out the story, taking turns playing the part of Jesus; the rest can be the two people.

Getting Closure: Ask the children to sit in a circle, leaving one chair empty. Tell them to imagine Jesus is sitting in the chair. Ask them to silently tell Jesus anything they want to. Allow a moment or two for this.

Closing Prayer: Thank you, God, that Jesus is known to us in the breaking of the bread. 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.

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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.

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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?’

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