

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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