

Unit 27 • Session 2
The Emmaus Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 24

STORY POINT:

Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

APPLY THE STORY

(25–30 minutes)

LEADER Bible Study

Jesus' death and resurrection should not have surprised the disciples. Sometimes Jesus spoke metaphorically about His death and resurrection. (See Matt. 12:39; Mark 14:58; John 2:19; 3:14-15.) Other times, Jesus plainly told the disciples that He would be betrayed, crucified, buried, and resurrected on the third day. (Matt. 17:12; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22) In fact, Jesus had spoken so frequently of His death and resurrection, the chief priests and Pharisees asked Pilate to place guards at the tomb in case the disciples stole Jesus' body. (See Matt. 27:62-66.)

On resurrection morning, the angel at Jesus' tomb asked the women, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" (Luke 24:5). Even when Peter and John ran to the empty tomb to see it for themselves, Peter was amazed but uncertain (Luke 24:12), while John believed (John 20:8).

That same day, two disciples were walking to Emmaus, arguing about recent events. Jesus began walking next to them, but God prevented them from recognizing Jesus. (Luke 24:16) Jesus simply asked them what they were arguing about. They stopped walking. How could He not have heard about what happened over the last three days?

The two disciples had hoped Jesus was the Redeemer of Israel. Their hopes were crushed when Jesus died. Now Jesus explained to them why the Messiah had to die, starting with Moses and the Prophets. Jesus showed how the Scriptures point to Him. (Luke 24:27; John 5:39)

Remind kids that the Bible is not a collection of unrelated stories. The whole Bible is about Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, God began working out His plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. (Gen. 3:15) All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—the time when Jesus would bring God's promised salvation for sinners.

The BIBLE Story

The Emmaus Disciples

Luke 24

On the day that Jesus rose from the dead, two of Jesus' disciples were walking to a village called Emmaus. The two disciples were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked, Jesus came and began to walk with them, but the disciples did not recognize Him.

Jesus asked the disciples, "What are you talking about?"

The disciples stopped walking. They looked sad. One of the disciples, Cleopas, answered, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what happened?"

"What happened?" Jesus asked.

So **they told Him**, "Jesus of Nazareth was a Prophet. He was powerful when He acted and spoke before God and all the people. **The religious leaders handed Jesus over to be sentenced to death, and they nailed Him to a cross.**

"We had hoped He was the One who would set Israel free. Besides, it's the third day since these things happened. **Early this morning, some women went to the tomb and did not find Jesus' body. They saw angels, who said that Jesus is alive.** Some of our friends went to the tomb, and they too saw that the tomb was empty."

Jesus said, "You are foolish to not believe what the prophets said! **Isn't this what had to happen to the Messiah?" Then, beginning with Moses and the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what all the Scriptures said about Him.**

Jesus and the two disciples arrived at Emmaus, and they asked Jesus to stay with them. So Jesus joined them at the dinner table. He took the bread, thanked God for it, and broke it into pieces. Then He gave the pieces to the disciples. Right away, the disciples recognized Jesus! But Jesus immediately disappeared from their sight.

The two disciples thought about their walk to Emmaus. They said, "When Jesus talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures, didn't our hearts burn with excitement?"

The disciples immediately left Emmaus and went back to Jerusalem. They found Jesus' eleven disciples and others who gathered with them. They told them what happened. They said, "Simon saw Jesus too! Jesus is alive!"

Christ Connection: The whole Bible is about Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, God began working out His plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—the time when Jesus would bring God's promised salvation for sinners.

APPLY THE STORY

Session Title: The Emmaus Disciples

Bible Passage: Luke 24

Story Point: Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

Key Passage: John 11:25

Big Picture Question: Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of

the Father.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

Key Passage Poster

Tape

Instruct the kids to stand in a circle. Use tape to mark a spot under one of the kids. Challenge the kids to begin walking in a circle as they say the key passage. Count how many times they can say the key passage before the kid who started on the tape gets back to that spot on the floor.

Say • Jesus said He is the resurrection and the life. When Jesus rose from the dead, He proved this was the truth. Everyone who has faith in Jesus is forgiven of sin and receives eternal life. That means that even when our bodies die, we know that our souls will be with God. And when Jesus comes back, we will gain new, heavenly bodies and live in Jesus' perfect kingdom forever.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Bibles, 1 per kid

Story Point Poster

Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970, optional)

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Luke 24. Consider using the New Testament Israel Map to point out Jerusalem and Emmaus. (*H4 and H3, respectively*) Explain that the two cities are about 7 miles apart (a bit over 11 kilometers), and it would likely take more than 2 hours to walk the distance. The Bible is about real people and places.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

Did the two disciples know Jesus was talking with them? (*no, Luke 24:16*)

What had the people hoped Jesus would do? (*redeem Israel, Luke 24:21*)

What did Jesus use to teach about Himself? (*all of the Scriptures, Luke 24:27*)

What is your favorite Old Testament story, and how does it point to Jesus? *Guide kids to discuss stories they enjoyed learning about from the Old Testament. Consider using the Small Group Timeline to point out specific stories your group has covered. Help the kids remember how those stories connect to the one big story of Jesus.*

When do you feel most excited about Jesus and the gospel? *Encourage the kids to be honest about their feelings. Some kids may feel most excited when learning new things about the Bible. Other kids may feel most excited when doing good deeds to honor Jesus with their lives. And still others may feel most excited when they are singing praises or praying to Him. Help kids see that all three are normal, good responses to the truth of Jesus.*

How can we be a part of the story of Jesus? *Guide kids to think about the ways we can live on mission and allow God's power to work through us. Discuss the importance of using our time, talents, and resources to glorify Jesus in the world.*

Say • **Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.** When we study the Old Testament, it helps us understand much more about God when we look at it the way Jesus did. Knowing the truth about Jesus helps us worship and obey Him out of love.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

Option 1: Moving targets

plastic cup

paper wads

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the

Select a kid to hold a plastic cup in front of himself and sidestep back and forth at one end of the room. Allow the other kids to take turns tossing paper wads into the cup as it moves. Every few minutes, stop the game and allow another kid to carry the cup.

Say • It is much harder to hit a moving target than it is to hit a target that isn't moving. In a way, this reminds us of missionary Peter Station. He wants to reach a people group in East Asia who live a nomadic life. *Nomadic* means "often moving to new places." Peter might think that he knows where to find them, but when he arrives, they have moved to another place. This is a challenge for sure, but it won't stop him or other missionaries. What challenges might we face when living on mission? [*Allow responses.*] How might we overcome those challenges? [*Allow responses.*]

Option 2: Through all Scripture

"Through All Scripture" printable

scissors

yarn

markers

hole punch

craft supplies

Print enough copies of the "Through All Scripture" printable so that each kid has a set of cards. Help the kids cut out their cards and punch a hole in a corner of each. Allow each kid to decorate her set of cards using craft supplies. Then, help the kids cut a 3- to 4-inch length of yarn, string it through the set of cards, and tie the ends to make a loop.

Say • Just as that bit of yarn holds all the cards in your craft together, Jesus is the "thread" that ties all of Scripture together. **Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.** Every story in the Bible is really telling one big story, and that story is all about Jesus. Whom can you share the story with? Use these cards to help you share the whole story of Scripture.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

pencils and crayons

paper

Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?

What does this story teach me about myself?

Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

Where is Jesus now?

Jesus ascended to
heaven where He is
seated at the right
hand of the Father.



Where is Jesus now?





**Jesus said to her,
“I am the resurrection and
the life. Whoever believes
in me, though he die,
yet shall he live.”**

John 11:25



Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.





STORY POINT: JESUS TAUGHT THAT ALL SCRIPTURES POINT TO HIM.

Secret Code

INSTRUCTIONS: Use the code below to figure out what Jesus taught the disciples who were traveling to Emmaus.



Younger Kids Activity Pages Unit 27 • Session 2 The Emmaus Disciples

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Jesus met with two disciples who were traveling to Emmaus.
- The disciples did not recognize Jesus. They about His death and the reports He had risen.
- Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.
- In Emmaus, the disciples realized they'd been speaking with Jesus and rushed to tell Jesus' friends.

KEY PASSAGE: John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What stories from the Old Testament do you remember?
- How do they point to Jesus?
- Why is it good to understand all scripture is about Jesus?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Play a word association game with your kids. Ask them to say the first word they think of as you say different words. Discuss how all of the Bible is about Jesus. He is associated with each story.



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