Preschool–Grade 6

The Road to Emmaus

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: Jesus is alive, and all the scriptures point to Him. When He opens our eyes, we can't keep the news to ourselves.
Bible passage: Luke 24:13–35. Students read it out loud themselves.
Memory verse: "Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon." *Luke 24:34 (KJV)* and "And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" *Luke 24:32 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
Before class: read Luke 24:1–35 and Luke 24:44–45. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses.

1. Opening game: Out of Place (5–10 minutes)

Ask: *Have you ever seen someone you know, like a teacher or a coach, somewhere you didn't expect, and not recognized them at first?* Let a few students tell their stories. Then ask: *What finally made you recognize them?* Say: "Today two followers of Jesus walked about seven miles with Him and didn't know Him. Watch for what opened their eyes."

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Read out loud: Luke 24:13–35. Students take turns, a verse or two each. It happened "that same day," the day the women found the tomb empty (24:1–13). Old words in this passage:

- **threescore furlongs** (24:13): about seven miles; **communed** (24:15): talked together
- **their eyes were holden** (24:16): they were kept from recognizing Him
- **communications** (24:17): the things you are talking about
- **redeemed Israel** (24:21): set Israel free; **sepulchre** (24:22): tomb
- **slow of heart** (24:25): slow to believe; **expounded** (24:27): explained
- **constrained** (24:29): urged strongly; **abide**: stay; **far spent**: almost over
- **sat at meat** (24:30): sat down to eat; **brake**: broke; **vanished** (24:31): was suddenly gone from sight
- **risen indeed** (24:34): truly risen

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Look closer. Point out these details with the class:

- **They had the news but not the faith.** The women said angels told them He was alive, and others found the tomb empty "even so as the women had said" (Luke 24:22–24). Cleopas knew all of it and was still sad (24:17).
- **The whole Bible is about Jesus.** "Beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (24:27). Later, when He stood among the eleven (24:36), He said the same about "the law of Moses, and… the prophets, and… the psalms" (24:44).
- **Known in the breaking of bread.** They knew Him when He "took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them" (24:30–31), and that is how they told it in Jerusalem (24:35).
- **The same hour.** It was "toward evening" (24:29), yet "they rose up the same hour" and went back to Jerusalem (24:33). Good news doesn't wait until morning.
- **Simon.** The eleven said He "hath appeared to Simon" (24:34). Paul also wrote that the risen Jesus "was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve" (1 Corinthians 15:5); Cephas is Peter's other name.

3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. Why do you think the two were still sad when they had already heard the tomb was empty (24:17–24)?
2. Jesus explained Himself from "Moses and all the prophets" (24:27). Why does it matter that the whole Bible points to Jesus?
3. Their hearts burned while He opened the scriptures (24:32). Have you ever felt God's Word come alive to you?
4. Why did they go back to Jerusalem "the same hour" (24:33)? What does that say about good news?
5. Jesus walked beside them when they didn't know it. How can that help you on a hard day?
6. Who do you know who needs to hear that Jesus is alive?

4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words: **the Lord** means Jesus, **risen indeed** means truly risen, **hath appeared** means has shown Himself, and **Simon** is Simon Peter. In Luke 24:32, **one to another** means to each other, **by the way** means on the road, and **opened to us the scriptures** means explained God's Word to us.
Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Luke 24:34 this week; keep working on Luke 24:32 next week too.

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5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "Jesus showed them it was written that Christ should suffer and rise again. Here is that gospel. God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). The Lord is risen indeed! We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the Holy Ghost, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)." *Pray with the students, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.*

6. Activity: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. When has God been with me when I didn't see it at the time?
2. What is one Bible passage I want to understand better, and who could help me?
3. Write a short prayer asking Jesus to open your eyes and your heart to His Word.
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: read Luke 24 again at home, and read one chapter of the Bible each day. Tell one person, "The Lord is risen indeed."

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that the Lord is risen indeed! Open our eyes to see Jesus in all the scriptures, make our hearts burn as we read Your Word, and give us courage to tell others. In Jesus' name, amen."

Teacher note: read the passage as Luke wrote it, including "O fools, and slow of heart to believe" (24:25); Jesus was correcting their unbelief, not insulting them. Luke names only Cleopas (24:18). Don't name the other disciple or add details Luke did not give.

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