Preschool–Grade 6

The Road to Emmaus

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Jesus is alive! He walks with us and helps us understand God's Word.
Bible passage: Luke 24:13–35. Read it before class.
Memory verse: "Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon." *Luke 24:34 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible, 4 paper strips, a marker, tape, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the 4 paper strips (see part 4). Choose one corner of the room to be "Emmaus" and another to be "Jerusalem." Put bookmarks in your Bible at Luke 24:13 and Luke 24:34.

1. Opening game: Whose Voice? (5 minutes)

One child sits with eyes closed, facing the wall. Point to another child, who says, "Hello, friend!" in a disguised voice. The first child guesses who it is. Take turns. Ask: *Was it hard to tell who was talking? What helped you know?* Say: "Today two of Jesus' followers walked a long way with Jesus, talking with Him the whole time, and they did not know it was Him! Let's find out what opened their eyes."

2. Bible story: The Road to Emmaus (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Luke 24, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Say: "This happened on the very same day Jesus rose from the dead." Tell it in your own words:

Two of Jesus' followers were walking from **Jerusalem** to a village called **Emmaus** (Luke 24:13). Say: "It was about seven miles. That's a long walk!" They talked about everything that had happened (24:14). Then **Jesus himself drew near, and went with them** (24:15). But their eyes were **holden**, so they did not know Him (24:16). Say: "Holden means held back. They were kept from seeing who He was, for a while."

Jesus asked why they were **sad** (24:17). One of them, named **Cleopas**, asked if He was only a stranger in Jerusalem who had not heard what happened there (24:18). They told Him that Jesus of Nazareth was **crucified**, put to death on a cross, and that this was the **third day** (24:20–21). Some women had gone to the **sepulchre**, the tomb, early that morning. Jesus' body was not there, and angels said He was **alive** (24:22–23)!

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The story continues: Jesus said they were **slow of heart to believe** what the prophets had written (24:25). Then, **beginning at Moses and all the prophets**, He explained to them the things about Himself in all the **scriptures**, God's Word (24:27).

When they came near the village, Jesus acted as if He would keep walking (24:28). But they said, "**Abide with us**: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent" (24:29). Say: "Abide means stay. It was almost night." So Jesus went in to stay with them.

As He sat down to eat with them, **He took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them** (24:30). And **their eyes were opened, and they knew him**! Then He **vanished out of their sight** (24:31). Say: "Vanished means He was gone, all at once!"

They said to each other, "**Did not our heart burn within us**, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" (24:32). Say: "Their hearts were warm and excited while Jesus taught them God's Word."

They rose up the same hour and went all the way back to Jerusalem (24:33). They found the **eleven** disciples and others with them. **Read Luke 24:34 from your Bible:** "Saying, The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared to Simon." Say: "**Risen indeed** means truly alive again! **Simon** is Simon Peter. Jesus had appeared to him too." Then the two told how Jesus was known to them when He broke the bread (24:35).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. Where were the two walking? *(To a village called Emmaus, Luke 24:13)*
2. Who walked with them? *(Jesus Himself, 24:15)*
3. What was the name of one of them? *(Cleopas, 24:18)*
4. What did Jesus explain to them on the road? *(The scriptures, the things about Himself, 24:27)*
5. When did they know it was Jesus? *(When He took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them, 24:30–31)*

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4. Memory verse: Run and Tell (5 minutes)

Write the verse on the 4 strips: *Saying, / The Lord is risen indeed, / and hath appeared to Simon. / Luke 24:34.* Tape them in order on the wall in the "Jerusalem" corner. Explain the old words: **the Lord** means Jesus, **risen indeed** means truly alive again, **hath appeared** means has shown Himself, and **Simon** means Simon Peter. Read the verse together. Then everyone walks quickly from "Emmaus" to "Jerusalem," like the two disciples, and says the verse together at the wall. Take one strip away and do it again. Keep taking one strip away until the kids can say the whole verse by themselves.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Jesus is alive! That is the best news there is. We have all done wrong things. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. But God loves you very much. Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:3–4), on the very day of this story! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: '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) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (Acts 2:4)."

Pray with the kids, 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.

This week: read a Bible story with someone at home and ask God to help you understand it. And tell one person, "Jesus is alive!"

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6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **road to Emmaus word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/road-to-emmaus-word-search), crossword, maze or worksheet, the craft (vbshq.com/crafts/road-to-emmaus-craft), or **Back to Jerusalem.** Half the class sits in the "Jerusalem" corner as the eleven. The other kids go in pairs to "Emmaus." Call out, "Their eyes were opened!" Each pair hurries back to Jerusalem and tells the group, "The Lord is risen indeed!" The group answers, "And hath appeared to Simon!" Then switch. Say: "When we know Jesus is alive, we want to tell everyone."

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You that Jesus is alive! Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. Open our eyes to understand Your Word, and help us tell others the good news. In Jesus' name, amen."

Teacher note: Luke names only one of the two, Cleopas (Luke 24:18), so don't give the other a name. Say "crucified" gently: "put to death on a cross." This lesson tells Jesus' words "slow of heart to believe" (24:25) and leaves out "O fools."

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