

The Road to Emmaus

Grades
1-2

RECOGNIZE

LUKE 24:13-35

What's happening in this story?

We enter this story focused on two disciples who are confused and still mostly in disbelief about the news of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus meets these two disciples while they are on the road traveling, but they do not recognize him. As they gather at the table, and Jesus breaks, blesses, and gives bread, all is revealed. And just as all is revealed—and they are aware of whose presence they have been in that day—Jesus is gone.

What does this story mean for kids?

The beauty of "The Road to Emmaus" is that it happened in daily life while Jesus' followers were talking to friends, walking, eating a meal, and inviting a friend to stay over. Kids can similarly imagine where Jesus might enter our daily lives—at the grocery store? The library? The swimming pool? Does Jesus walk with us today on the soccer field or at the gym? You can enter the story by exploring where they might encounter Jesus in their life.

Why this theme?

It can sometimes be difficult to remember that—despite the chaos—God is still active and present in the world. The response is not to dismiss God's role, but to search it out. To look for and praise the moments when we recognize Jesus at work among us.

AGE LEVEL TIP

Today kids will explore how to recognize Jesus in their lives and in the lives of others. Help kids see Jesus in themselves by pointing out when they share love, do something helpful, ask questions, or trust God. These are things Jesus did!



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Markers
- Masking tape
- Clear tape
- Glue stick
- Mural paper

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Toy vehicles (small)
- Road map
- Bandanna
- Suitcase
- Moving box
- Grocery bag
- Backpack
- Timer

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Cover a table with mural paper and tape to hold. Set out toy vehicles and place markers near the paper. Invite kids to draw roads like a map all over the paper. Have kids use the toys to travel all the roads on the map. **Did anyone make road signs? How will you recognize your roads?**

Circle up with kids for an opening conversation.

In our Bible story today, there are two friends walking on the road. Jesus joins them, but they do not recognize him. **Have you ever not recognized someone? Tell us about it.** Listen to kids' stories. Hold up the map. **This is a road map. Let's get into a circle and place the map on the floor. As we pray, we can remember all the many roads where we might find Jesus.**

Pray together: **Dear God, we travel down many roads on our way to school, church, and the store. Help us to look for Jesus. Amen.**

Pass out leaflets.

Tear off the leaflet panel, and fold your leaflet so only the caterpillar shows. Invite kids to do the same. Ask kids what it is. **It's a caterpillar. What happens to**

caterpillars? Caterpillars go inside cocoons where they turn into butterflies. What if you didn't know that caterpillars become butterflies? You might think it's just a crawly bug. Fold leaflets, showing only the cocoon. **Can you recognize the butterfly in this photo? Not yet! Now let's look at the butterfly.** Fold leaflets so the butterfly shows. **What helps us recognize it? Probably someone showed us that it became a butterfly after first being a caterpillar and then being in the cocoon. Recognizing something takes time and learning.** Collect their leaflets until Respond.



Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

Have you ever had your eyes checked by an eye doctor? Let's watch the video together!

View Episode 8, "Nearsighted Disciples," on the Year Blue Spring PreK–Grade 2 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- **Where is Emmaus?**
- **What rumors were being spread about Jesus?**
- **Roxie doesn't have all the answers in our video today. Do you think teachers should know all the answers or not? Why?**
- **Who told others about Jesus?**
- **What clues do you use to recognize someone?**



Open your Whirl Kids Story Bibles.

Let's find our story for today! Help kids find "The Road to Emmaus" on page 334. Before you read, invite kids to look for four pictures of Jesus.

Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page.

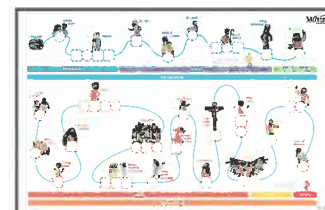
Ask these questions after you read the story:

- **What questions did Cleopas (KLEE-oh-puhs) and his friend have about Jesus?**
- **Why did the disciples think the stranger should know about Jesus?**
- **When did Cleopas recognize Jesus?**
- **Why did the disciples go back to Jerusalem that same night?**
- **Tell us about a time you saw your teacher outside of school.**



Gather near the Wall Chart to place today's sticker.

Point out the Testament (New), section (Gospels), and character image (Risen Jesus). **Today's Bible story is about where people saw Jesus after he died. Let's add a sticker to remind us where people talked to Jesus.** Point to the corresponding images of Jesus and the road on page 334 in the Whirl Kids Story Bible.



Play together!

Sit in a circle with legs crossed. Go around the circle saying each kid's name. **Let's see if we can recognize each other's voices when we can't see who is speaking. We'll take turns using this bandanna to blindfold our eyes. The twist is, when it's your turn to use your voice, you must disguise it.** Ask for a volunteer to be blindfolded. After this volunteer cannot see anything, touch a person's shoulder to pick them to disguise their voice as they say, "Jesus is with us wherever we go." This person will become the next guesser after being recognized. Play until everyone has had turns as both guesser and disguiser. **In our story today the disciples did not recognize Jesus. He wasn't in a disguise and the disciples did not have a blindfold. But it still took the disciples a long time to figure out that it was Jesus.**

BIBLE BIT

Bible translations and early manuscripts place ancient Emmaus somewhere between 7 and 19 miles from Jerusalem—a long way to run with news of having seen the risen Jesus!

WATCH IT AGAIN

Since Victor thinks the disciples had vision problems, try watching today's video again with eyes closed. **What do you hear this time around that you didn't hear last time?**

OUR CHURCH

Organize a church walk or hike in your area. Ask all participants to walk with people they don't know well yet, using the time to hear about each other's faith questions and journeys.

RESPOND 10

Pass out leaflets and markers.

Set aside leaflet panel used in Welcome.

1. Before beginning this activity, place the suitcase, backpack, grocery bag, and moving box in separate sections of your learning space.
2. Hold up a leaflet square. **I see pictures of a suitcase, a grocery bag, a moving box, a backpack, and Jesus. These props will help us investigate how many different ways Jesus is with us in our lives!**
3. Divide kids into four groups. Assign each group one prop to begin with.
4. **Look at your group's prop. Together, think of all the ways Jesus is with you when you are using this prop. For example, if your prop is a suitcase, think of ways Jesus travels with you. Maybe Jesus is someone helping you when you get lost. Write your thoughts down next to the same prop on your leaflet.**
5. **You have two minutes to think of all the ideas you can before the timer goes off. When you hear the timer, stop what you are doing and move clockwise to the next prop.**
6. Begin the activity. Some kids may struggle with directions when transitioning from item to item, so point clockwise to help everyone move in the same direction. End when each group has been at all four of the props. Then bring the group back together.
7. **Let's hear some of your ideas.** Allow kids to share. **Jesus is with us in small and big ways, everywhere we go and all the time.**

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

Two disciples were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. A stranger joined them. The stranger was Jesus, but the disciples didn't know it! They invited him to eat with them. When Jesus broke the bread, the disciples recognized him. When we recognize Jesus, we know he is with us always.

Pass out leaflet panels and tape.

With leaflet page facing down, invite kids to roll each side to the center to make binoculars. Tape the end of each roll on both sides. **Try to spot Jesus everywhere you go today!**

Send kids out with a blessing.

Circle up with kids. **God blesses all of us. And that means me** (place a hand on your chest). **And that means you** (place your other hand on the shoulder of the kid next to you). Each kid passes the blessing by repeating those words and actions. When the blessing makes it back to you, say, **Go and bless the world.**

Thank kids for helping one another think about ways in which Jesus is always with us. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.