



LESSON 5 THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Surprises Us

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24

GOD'S BIG STORY: After His death and resurrection,, Jesus appears to two of His followers as they are walking on the road to Emmaus. At first they don't recognize Him, but Jesus opens their eyes to the surprising truth that He is alive.

WORD OF WONDER: I will spend time thinking about everything you have done. —Psalm 77:12

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Play Stations:
 - What Does This Feel Like?
 - Trace the Road
 - The Road to Emmaus Coloring Sheet
- Word of Wonder: Psalm 77:12
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Easter Egg Surprise
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Prayer Walk to Emmaus
- Closing Game: Jesus Is Here!



Connected Easter Preschool Spotify playlist



LESSON 5 FOR LEADERS

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Surprises Us

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24

WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 77:12

The two individuals dragging themselves to Emmaus were about as discouraged as humanly possible. They thought Jesus would set all things right, rid the neighborhood of Romans, and lead Israel back to the glorious days of King David's reign.

Instead, they saw Him arrested, tortured, murdered.

As you read Luke 24:13–49, notice that Cleopas and his friend had already heard reports that Jesus had risen, yet they were still sad. Perhaps they didn't quite believe the stories. Perhaps they thought that because Jesus had been crucified He couldn't be the all-powerful Redeemer of Israel after all.

They perked up when a stranger fell into step with them and explained what the Scripture said about the Messiah. That was a pleasant surprise.

But what transformed them, what set them alight, was the realization that they were with Jesus. Surprised? Yes. Delighted? Absolutely. Changed forever? In an instant.

This week as you lead, ask the Holy Spirit to deliver an Emmaus moment to your kids. For there to come a time when kids realize Jesus isn't just out there somewhere but rather is in the room. He's with them. And He wants to be with them forever.

How will that look? I have no idea, but I'm 100 percent certain His desire is to be real in the minds and hearts of your kids ... and you.

And He's not above springing a surprise or two to make that happen. So pray for a surprise. And, when you see it, be grateful.

You know who's behind it.

—Mikal Keefer

Children's Ministry Volunteer and Author

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Two of Jesus' followers were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus. One was named Cleopas, perhaps the same person as the Clopas mentioned in John 19:25. The identity of the other is unknown.

WHAT?

The risen Jesus appeared to two of His followers on the road to Emmaus, but they didn't recognize Him. Jesus explained to them what was written in Scripture about the Messiah. Later, Jesus broke bread with them, and their eyes were opened to recognize Him.

WHERE?

The exact location of Emmaus is debated. Two suggestions are el-Qubeibeh, which was seven miles northwest of Jerusalem, and Amwas, which was 18 miles northwest of Jerusalem.

WHEN?

Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus the third day after His death, the same day Mary and the other women discovered the empty tomb and some of the disciples went to see it. This was after that but before Jesus appeared to the gathered disciples.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus' resurrection means His followers' hopes have been realized and the promises of Scripture have been fulfilled. Jesus is the Messiah, and the good news of His salvation will spread to the ends of the earth.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

LESSON 5 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: Jesus Surprises Us

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WORD OF WONDER: Psalm 77:12

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: paper bags (4), bin, oranges (2), silk squares (2), balls of yarn (2), toy keys (2 sets), laminator (or gallon-size resealable bags), tape, dry-erase markers (4), tissues, coloring utensils

RESOURCES: Trace the Road Printable(1/SG), The Road to Emmaus Coloring Sheet (1 per kid)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

"Welcome to RBKids! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"

Play Station: What Does This Feel Like?

Set-up: Place an orange, a silk square, a ball of yarn, and a set of toy keys in separate paper bags.

Scrunch the top of the paper bags so kids can't see inside. Place the other orange, silk square, ball of yarn, and set of toy keys in a bin.

Play: Encourage kids to stick their hands into the paper bags to feel the objects inside. Likewise, encourage them to look at and feel the objects in the bin. Kids will feel the objects they can't see (in the paper bags) and the objects they can see (in the bins) to see which object is in which bag. Kids can also start with the bin objects and move to the bag objects.

Play Station: Trace the Road

Set-up: Print the Trace the Road Printable and laminate (or place the printable in a gallon-size resealable bag). Tape the covered printable to the table. Set out dry-erase markers and tissues.

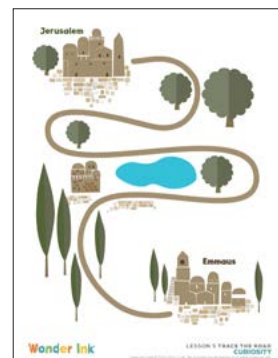
Play: Invite kids to trace the road with the dry-erase markers. They can wipe the sheet clean with tissues and draw again.

Leader Tip: Print, cover, and tape multiple Trace the Road Printables for larger groups.

Play Station: The Road to Emmaus Coloring Sheet

Set-up: Print one copy per kid of The Road to Emmaus Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

Play: Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw the road outside of their house.



Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible, tape, construction paper (at least 11 sheets)

Before beginning the Word of Wonder activity, tape 11 sheets of construction paper in a circle on the ground. For groups larger than 11, add another circle of 11 sheets of construction paper and split your group in half to play.

WORD OF WONDER

**I will spend time thinking about everything you
have done.**

—Psalm 77:12

"Let's play a game to help us learn our Word of Wonder! We have 11 sheets of paper taped to the ground. In just a minute, you'll pick one of those sheets to stand on. Then, we'll all step from one sheet to the next while saying the Word of Wonder. There are 11 parts to our Word of Wonder—one for each sheet!

Before we begin, let's practice our Word of Wonder together a couple of times. Say it with me! "I will spend time thinking about everything you have done," Psalm 77:12. Let's hold up a finger for each word that we say! I: Hold up 1 finger. **Will:** Hold up 2 fingers. **Spend:** Hold up 3 fingers. **Time:** Hold up 4 fingers. **Thinking:** Hold up 5 fingers. **About:** Hold up 6 fingers. **Everything:** Hold up 7 fingers. **You:** Hold up 8 fingers. **Have:** Hold up 9 fingers. **Done:** Hold up 10 fingers. **Psalm 77:12:** Hold up 10 fingers, then hold up 1 finger to make 11.

Great job, everyone! Now choose a paper to stand on. Allow kids to stand on paper. **Let's say the Word of Wonder together with every step we take, from one paper to the next!**

Allow kids to say the Word of Wonder as they step from paper to paper. Increase the difficulty of the game by moving the papers in a wider circle, making for bigger steps. If you have fewer than 11 kids, you can also take away pieces of paper and encourage them to jump from one paper to the next.

Make It Inclusive! For kids with mobility issues, have the group sit in a circle and pass the papers to their right. As you play, move the circle to be wider and wider, making more of a challenge to pass the papers. Encourage kids to get creative in how to get the paper to their neighbors (crumpling and throwing it, using their whole body to pass the paper, etc.).

You all are expert paper-steppers now! Let's keep practicing our Word of Wonder by doing our motions.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **I WILL SPEND TIME THINKING ABOUT**—Point to head.
- **EVERYTHING**—Stretch hands out in front of you with palms together, then spread arms out wide.
- **YOU HAVE DONE.**—Point up.
- **PSALM 77:12**—Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **What are some amazing things God has done?**
- **What could help us remember and think about these amazing things that God has done?**

God's Big Story / Snack

SUPPLIES: NIV Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them that today's story comes from the book of Luke in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? (Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)

God's big story, waiting for me! (Point to yourself.)

"Let's hear part of God's big story, a part that comes from the book of Luke in the Bible."

[Read Luke 24:13–34 from an NIV Bible.](#)

Circle Time: Easter Egg Surprise

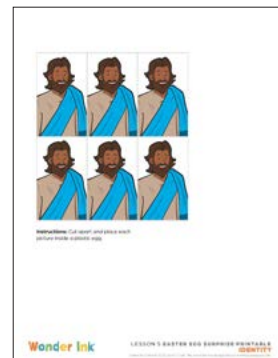
SUPPLIES: plastic eggs (12), basket, scissors (prep only)

RESOURCE: [Easter Egg Surprise Printable \(1/SG\)](#)

Ahead of time, print the Easter Egg Surprise Printable and cut along the dotted lines. Fold the six pictures of Jesus and put them into six plastic eggs. Place all the eggs (six filled and six empty) into the Easter basket.

"This Easter, we're celebrating how Jesus wasn't where people expected Him to be. Jesus surprises us! In this game Jesus might surprise you too! We'll all sit in a circle. I'll give someone a basket full of Easter eggs. When you get the basket, pull out an Easter egg and open it up. If you have a Jesus surprise inside, I'll ask you a question before you pass the basket to the next person. If the egg is empty, you can just pass the basket."

Encourage the kids to sit in a circle. Give the Easter basket to one person and invite him to choose an egg. If his egg is empty, he will pass the basket to his right. If there's a surprise picture of Jesus, ask him to answer one of the six questions below.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Where were the followers of Jesus walking to?** (Emmaus)
- **What did Jesus talk to His followers about while walking to Emmaus?** (He talked with them about what the Bible says.)
- **What did Jesus' two followers do when they recognized Jesus?** (ran back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples)
- **How would you have felt if you were with the disciples when Jesus appeared?**
- **How could we recognize Jesus if He surprised us now?**
- **Why is it important that Jesus is alive forever?**

Sometimes we don't recognize Jesus, but He is always with us. Jesus surprises us! Even in our worst circumstances. Let's talk to God now in prayer!"

PRAYER TIME

Invite the kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for the fact that Jesus is with us and surprises us.

Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

Responding in Worship: Prayer Walk to Emmaus

SUPPLIES: painter's tape, construction paper (2 sheets)

RESOURCES: [Emmaus Printable \(1/SG\)](#), songs from the [Connected Easter Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

Print the Emmaus Printable and tape it on a wall. Create a starting line with painter's tape about nine feet from the Emmaus Printable. This starting line will be "Jerusalem." Create a "road to Emmaus" by placing a sheet of construction paper on the floor a few feet away from the starting line. Then place another sheet of construction paper a few feet away from the first sheet of construction paper. Add a line of painter's tape from the starting line to each stop to the Emmaus Printable, creating a pathway for the kids to follow.

Softly play songs from the [Connected Easter Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) in the background as the kids worship.

When Jesus first showed up and started walking with two of His followers on the road to Emmaus, they didn't recognize Him. They had no idea they were looking at the risen Jesus until Jesus opened their hearts to understand everything the Scriptures say about Him. After they recognized the whole truth about Jesus, they recognized that the person walking with them was Jesus Himself!



Jesus' followers were sad and confused, but Jesus showed up and helped them understand that His death wasn't the end of the story. He is alive and still at work! Jesus knows our hearts and what we need, just like He knew the hearts and needs of the two people in the story. He loves us too much to leave us alone in our sadness and confusion. He wants to lead us to a full understanding of who He is and what it truly means to follow Him.

Line kids up at the starting line of "Jerusalem." Show kids the "road" that leads to "Emmaus." Tell them they will each have a chance to walk down the road and stop and pray at each piece of construction paper. At the first piece of paper, invite them to give God praise for something He's done in their lives lately. At the second piece, encourage them to ask God to surprise them with His help in a situation they're living through right now. And finally, when they reach Emmaus, allow the kids to touch the wall and say, "Jesus, You surprise me!" before they run back to Jerusalem (the starting line.)

Make It Inclusive! Some kids, especially those experiencing trauma, may be reluctant during this time to focus on a difficult situation in their lives at the second piece of construction paper. Provide other prayer options, such as praying for someone else who is in a difficult situation, saying a prayer of praise, or listing all the amazing things they know are true about God.

Gather kids together and close the worship response time in prayer. Thank God for being a God who knows us, loves us, and wants to lead us to a full understanding of His Son, Jesus, and all the good surprises (big and small) that a life with Him has to offer.

Closing Game: Jesus Is Here!

"Let's play a game to remind us of what we learned today. Jesus' followers went from Jerusalem to Emmaus and all the way back to Jerusalem in one day. They did this so they could share that Jesus is here! He is alive!"

Decide which side of the room will be "Emmaus" and which will be "Jerusalem." **I'm going to give you some instructions, so listen closely! When I say, "Emmaus," run to this side.** Indicate the "Emmaus" side. **When I say, "Jerusalem," run to the other side.** Indicate the "Jerusalem" side. **Let's practice! Emmaus!** Allow kids to run to the correct side. **Jerusalem!** Allow kids to run to the correct side.

While you're going back and forth from Jerusalem to Emmaus, you'll need to listen to my instructions! I could say, "Get into groups of three people and pray!" Or "Get into groups of four people and act surprised!" And if I say, "Jesus is here!" everyone should freeze until I say the next instruction. Let's practice! Get into groups of three and pray! Allow kids to get into groups of three and pretend to pray. **Get into groups of four and act surprised!** Allow kids to get into groups of four and act surprised. **Jesus is here!** Remind kids that this instruction means they are "frozen in surprise" and can't move until you say the next directive. **Got it? Let's play!"**

Alternate between saying "Emmaus" and "Jerusalem." Every so often, add an instruction such as "Get into groups of three and pray," "Get into groups of four and act surprised," or "Jesus is here!"