



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

LESSON 5 FOR LEADERS THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

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

Play Stations

SUPPLIES: tape

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Emmaus Printable

Ahead of time, print the Emmaus Printable and tape it to the wall.

Two of Jesus' followers were traveling from Jerusalem to a town called Emmaus. Let's pretend we're Jesus' followers and travel to Emmaus too! First, let's walk to Emmaus.

Encourage toddlers to walk toward the Emmaus Printable. **Next, let's crawl to Emmaus!** Invite toddlers to crawl toward the Emmaus Printable. **Now, let's run as fast as we can to Emmaus!** Encourage toddlers to run to the Emmaus Printable.

Play this game several times, switching up the mode of travel.

We'll see today how Jesus surprised His friends when they were sad. Jesus also surprises us with His presence when we're sad!

Our Wonder Truth today is **JESUS SURPRISES US**.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

JESUS—*Point upward.*

SURPRISES—*Put your hands on your face and act surprised.*

US—*Put both thumbs to your chest.*





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LESSON 5 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Dear God, we believe that You love us and take care of us. Please come near to us as we learn about You today. Sometimes we don't recognize it, but You're always with us. Thank You for always caring for us. Thank You for surprising us with Your love every day! In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

Pull out the Bible

Ask: What is this called? The Bible

Ask: Why is the Bible special? Because it is God's word. Everything in it is true. It really happened.

Tell the Bible story

The Big Picture Bible, page 258

The Emmaus Disciples

Word of Wonder

WORD OF WONDER

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

—Psalm 77:12