



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: paper bags (4), bin, toy banana (2), toy cars (2), balls of yarn (2), tennis balls (2 sets), coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Trace the Road Printable, 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 church! 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 a banana, a toy car, a ball of yarn, and a tennis ball in separate paper bags. Scrunch the top of the paper bags so kids can't see inside. Place the other banana, car, ball of yarn, and tennis ball 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: 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.



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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

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.



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LESSON 5 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Craft: Heart Surprise

SUPPLIES: coloring utensils, stickers (optional)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Heart Surprise Printable (1 per kid)

Ahead of time, print one copy of the Heart Surprise Printable per kid.

The men walking to Emmaus felt excitement in their hearts when they recognized Jesus. Whenever we recognize Jesus' work in our lives, our hearts can feel excited too! Our Heart Surprise pictures will remind us how the men felt and how we can feel whenever we are surprised by Jesus.

Hand out a Heart Surprise Printable to each kid. Show how to fold along the dotted lines—fold the picture in half with the top going to the bottom. Then fold the top paper up toward you and crease on the line. Kids should see a heart on their picture. Encourage the kids to color the heart. Then they can open the paper and color around the picture of Jesus inside the heart. They can decorate the rest of the heart with coloring utensils and stickers or any other decorations you have.

When they're done, allow kids to explore how Jesus seems “hidden” when the heart picture is folded and how He “surprises” us as we unfold it.

Leader Tip: Pre-fold the Heart Surprise Printables to help kids understand how it works.

