



Use Week of:

Unit 27 • Session 2

The Emmaus Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 24

STORY POINT:

Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 11:25

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

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LEADER Bible Study

Jesus' death and resurrection should not have surprised the disciples. Sometimes Jesus spoke metaphorically about His death and resurrection. (See Matt. 12:39; Mark 14:58; John 2:19; 3:14-15.) Other times, Jesus plainly told the disciples that He would be betrayed, crucified, buried, and resurrected on the third day. (Matt. 17:12; Mark 8:31; Luke 9:22) In fact, Jesus had spoken so frequently of His death and resurrection, the chief priests and Pharisees asked Pilate to place guards at the tomb in case the disciples stole Jesus' body. (See Matt. 27:62-66.)

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On resurrection morning, the angel at Jesus' tomb asked the women, "Why are you looking for the living among the dead?" (Luke 24:5). Even when Peter and John ran to the empty tomb to see it for themselves, Peter was amazed but uncertain (Luke 24:12), while John believed (John 20:8).

That same day, two disciples were walking to Emmaus, arguing about recent events. Jesus began walking next to them, but God prevented them from recognizing Jesus. (Luke 24:16) Jesus simply asked them what they were arguing about. They stopped walking. How could He not have heard about what happened over the last three days?

The two disciples had hoped Jesus was the Redeemer of Israel. Their hopes were crushed when Jesus died. Now Jesus explained to them why the Messiah had to die, starting with Moses and the Prophets. Jesus showed how the Scriptures point to Him. (Luke 24:27; John 5:39)

Remind kids that the Bible is not a collection of unrelated stories. The whole Bible is about Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, God began working out His plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. (Gen. 3:15) All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—the time when Jesus would bring God's promised salvation for sinners.

The BIBLE Story

The Emmaus Disciples

Luke 24

On the day that Jesus rose from the dead, two of Jesus' disciples were walking to a village called Emmaus. The two disciples were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked, Jesus came and began to walk with them, but the disciples did not recognize Him.

Jesus asked the disciples, "What are you talking about?"

The disciples stopped walking. They looked sad. One of the disciples, Cleopas, answered, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what happened?"

"What happened?" Jesus asked.

So **they told Him**, "Jesus of Nazareth was a Prophet. He was powerful when He acted and spoke before God and all the people. **The religious leaders handed Jesus over to be sentenced to death, and they nailed Him to a cross.**

"**We had hoped He was the One who would set Israel free.** Besides, it's the third day since these things happened. **Early this morning, some women went to the tomb and did not find Jesus' body. They saw angels, who said that Jesus is alive.** Some of our friends went to the tomb, and they too saw that the tomb was empty."



Jesus said, “You are foolish to not believe what the prophets said! Isn’t this what had to happen to the Messiah?” Then, beginning with Moses and the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what all the Scriptures said about Him.

Jesus and the two disciples arrived at Emmaus, and they asked Jesus to stay with them. So Jesus joined them at the dinner table. He took the bread, thanked God for it, and broke it into pieces. Then He gave the pieces to the disciples. Right away, the disciples recognized Jesus! But Jesus immediately disappeared from their sight.

The two disciples thought about their walk to Emmaus. They said, “When Jesus talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures, didn’t our hearts burn with excitement?”

The disciples immediately left Emmaus and went back to Jerusalem. They found Jesus’ eleven disciples and others who gathered with them. They told them what happened. They said, “Simon saw Jesus too! Jesus is alive!”

Christ Connection: The whole Bible is about Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, God began working out His plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection—the time when Jesus would bring God’s promised salvation for sinners.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Go for a walk:** Walk across the front of the room as you tell the story, as Jesus and the disciples walked to Emmaus.
- **Wear a costume:** Dress in Bible times clothes like Jesus or the disciples might have worn.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: The Emmaus Disciples

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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to tell about a time they took a long walk. Where were they going?

SAY • Nowadays, if we have a long way to travel, we usually drive a car or ride in a plane, train, or bus. In Jesus' day you had to walk just about anywhere you wanted to go! Today we will learn about a time two disciples met Jesus while traveling from one city to another.

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the "Secret Code" activity page. Kids will use the picture code to decipher the story point:

Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

SAY • Great job figuring out the coded message. Today we will learn about a time Jesus helped two disciples understand a message that God had written into the Old Testament Scriptures. Once the disciples understood it, they were excited to share the message with other people.

- "Secret Code" activity page,
- 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Whose voice?

Select a kid to stand at one end of the room and face away from the other kids. You may display the key passage for kids to read. Silently select kids to read or recite the key passage. Challenge the kid facing away from the group to guess who read it based only on the reader's voice. Play multiple rounds, choosing different kids to be the guesser and the reader.

SAY • Today we will hear about a time two disciples talked with Jesus for a long time but didn't realize who He was! What do you think those two did when God revealed whom they were speaking with? We'll learn more soon.

OPTION 2: Blind toss

Instruct the kids to form a line. Place an empty basket opposite the kids. Blindfold the first kid in line and give her a tennis ball. Invite her to toss the ball into the basket. Allow each kid to take a turn. Consider awarding points to kids who successfully land the ball in the basket. You may play additional rounds without the blindfold for comparison.

SAY • After Jesus rose from the dead, different people saw Him at different times, but some of them were still spiritually blind to the truth about Him found in God's Word. Today we will learn about a time Jesus helped two disciples better understand the full truth about Himself.

**LOW
PREP**

• Key Passage Poster
(optional)

• basket
• tennis ball
• blindfolds

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



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Countdown

· countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

· leader attire

[Leader enters wearing a flannel shirt and overalls.]

LEADER • Hey, friends! Welcome back to my farm. You arrived just in time. I was about to leave to head into town to buy some supplies. Living on a farm is nice, but sometimes I do miss the convenience of being only a 5- or 10-minute drive from the grocery store. It takes me nearly 45 minutes on the back country roads to get to the nearest town.

Even so, I like being a farmer, and if I lived in a city I wouldn't have enough space to plant my crops! So even with some mild inconveniences, I'm still thankful to live where I live and do the work I do. Plus, the drives into town give me a great chance to let my mind wander and think about what I'm learning in the Bible.

You know, that actually reminds me of a story. Two disciples were journeying from Jerusalem to a city

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

called Emmaus. In a car with modern roads, that trip wouldn't take too long. But these two were on foot! Thankfully, they had a wonderful conversation with Jesus as they walked. Let's learn what they talked about.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Who can remember our big picture question?

[*Allow responses.*] Great job! **Where is Jesus now? Jesus ascended to heaven where He is seated at the right hand of the Father.** Jesus rose from the dead, never to die again. We don't see Jesus on earth because He went back to heaven. His position—seated at the Father's right hand—shows us that He is honored and glorified, and His work is complete. By dying and rising again, Jesus completely paid for sin and defeated death.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

· Giant Timeline

LEADER • Though Jesus had been crucified by the Romans to please the Jewish religious leaders, Jesus did not remain dead for long. **God raised Jesus from the dead to defeat sin and death.** Though Jesus is alive, it took a bit of time before word got around. They didn't have text messages, email, or social media back then, so news had to travel with people. Speaking of which, in our story today, two disciples traveling to Emmaus were speaking about all the things that had been happening when Jesus came and helped them understand it all. Let's get to it!

- Bibles
- “The Emmaus Disciples” video
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Story Point Poster

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 24. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “The Emmaus Disciples.”

LEADER • This story helps guide everything we have talked about and learned each week. The reason we have gone through the Bible pointing to Jesus each week is that Jesus Himself said that’s the main point of Scripture!

We don’t just want to understand the stories of the Bible, we want to understand them in the context of what God has been doing in the world all along. Even before sin entered the world with Adam and Eve’s first act of disobedience, God has been working out His perfect plan.

God reveals Himself to us in His Word. Without the Bible, we could not know God personally or come to faith in Jesus. To understand the Bible, we must understand that everything God does is part of His plan to rescue sinners through His Son, Jesus.

When we are lost, we have no way of understanding how far away from God we really are. The good news is that God sent Jesus to rescue us just as He had promised. When we have faith in Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, God forgives all our sin and gives us life that lasts forever. That means that even after our physical lives end, we will live forever with Jesus.

Christ connection

LEADER • The whole Bible is about Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, God began working out His plan

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—the time when Jesus would bring God's promised salvation for sinners.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 27, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about why we need the Old Testament. Guide them to discuss how they can read God's Word each day.

· “Unit 27, Session 2”
Questions from Kids
video



Missions moment (3 minutes)

Print a copy of “The Gospel on the Move” printable. Display the photos or pass them around for the kids to see. Read Peter Station's story aloud.

· “Gospel on the Move”
printable

LEADER • Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to

Him. This is something that Christian workers teach to people groups all over the world. Peter Station wants the nomadic people of East Asia to know that they can learn about Jesus in the Bible. The area he lives in can be very dangerous for people who believe in Jesus, so he is very careful about how and when he shares. In fact, Peter Station isn't even his real name! We often use pretend names to help keep Peter and missionaries like him safe.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together John 11:25. Then sing the key passage song.

· Key Passage Poster
· “Live (John 11:25)”
song

LEADER • Jesus said He is the resurrection and the life.

Then, Jesus proved it by rising from the dead. Jesus' resurrection defeated sin and death for all time. We

can be certain we will live with God forever if we have faith that Jesus died for our sin and rose again.

Sing (4 minutes)

• “Jesus, Our Savior”
song

LEADER • All of Scripture tells one big story about Jesus.

Let’s glorify God together because Jesus, our Savior, is alive.

Sing together “Jesus, Our Savior.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Lord, thank You for giving us Your Word.

Help us trust You. Give us wisdom to understand Scripture and the ways it teaches us about You, Your Son, and ourselves. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



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Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- tape

Instruct the kids to stand in a circle. Use tape to mark a spot under one of the kids. Challenge the kids to begin walking in a circle as they say the key passage. Count how many times they can say the key passage before the kid who started on the tape gets back to that spot on the floor.

SAY • Jesus said He is the resurrection and the life. When Jesus rose from the dead, He proved this was the truth. Everyone who has faith in Jesus is forgiven of sin and receives eternal life. That means that even when our bodies die, we know that our souls will be with God. And when Jesus comes back, we will gain new, heavenly bodies and live in Jesus' perfect kingdom forever.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster
- Small Group Timeline and Map Set (005802970, optional)

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Luke 24. Consider using the New Testament Israel Map to point out Jerusalem and Emmaus. (*H4 and H3, respectively*) Explain that the two cities are about 7 miles apart (a bit over 11 kilometers), and it would likely take more than 2 hours to walk the distance. The Bible is about real people and places.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Did the two disciples know Jesus was talking with them? (*no, Luke 24:16*)
2. What had the people hoped Jesus would do? (*redeem Israel, Luke 24:21*)
3. What did Jesus use to teach about Himself? (*all of the Scriptures, Luke 24:27*)
4. What is your favorite Old Testament story, and how does it point to Jesus? *Guide kids to discuss stories they enjoyed learning about from the Old Testament. Consider using the Small Group Timeline to point out specific stories your group has covered. Help the kids remember how those stories connect to the one big story of Jesus.*
5. When do you feel most excited about Jesus and the gospel? *Encourage the kids to be honest about their feelings. Some kids may feel most excited when learning new things about the Bible. Other kids may feel most excited when doing good deeds to honor Jesus with their lives. And still others may feel most excited when they are singing praises or praying to Him. Help kids see that all three are normal, good responses to the truth of Jesus.*
6. How can we be a part of the story of Jesus? *Guide kids to think about the ways we can live on mission and allow God's power to work through us. Discuss the importance of using our time, talents, and resources to glorify Jesus in the world.*

SAY • Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.

When we study the Old Testament, it helps us understand much more about God when we look at it the way Jesus did. Knowing the truth about Jesus helps us worship and obey Him out of love.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

LOW PREP

- plastic cup
- paper wads

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment found in Teach the Story.

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Moving targets

Select a kid to hold a plastic cup in front of himself and sidestep back and forth at one end of the room. Allow the other kids to take turns tossing paper wads into the cup as it moves. Every few minutes, stop the game and allow another kid to carry the cup.

SAY • It is much harder to hit a moving target than it is to hit a target that isn't moving. In a way, this reminds us of missionary Peter Station. He wants to reach a people group in East Asia who live a nomadic life. *Nomadic* means "often moving to new places." Peter might think that he knows where to find them, but when he arrives, they have moved to another place. This is a challenge for sure, but it won't stop him or other missionaries. What challenges might we face when living on mission? [Allow responses.] How might we overcome those challenges? [Allow responses.]

OPTION 2: Through all Scripture

Print enough copies of the "Through All Scripture" printable so that each kid has a set of cards. Help the kids cut out their cards and punch a hole in a corner of each. Allow each kid to decorate her set of cards using glitter glue, markers, stickers, or other craft supplies. Then, help the kids cut a 3- to 4-inch length of yarn, string it through the set of cards, and tie the ends to make a loop.

SAY • Just as that bit of yarn holds all the cards in your craft together, Jesus is the "thread" that ties all of Scripture together. **Jesus taught that all the Scriptures point to Him.** Every story in the Bible is really telling one

- "Through All Scripture" printable
- scissors
- yarn
- markers
- hole punch
- glitter glue, stickers, or other craft supplies

big story, and that story is all about Jesus. Whom can you share the story with? Use these cards to help you share the whole story of Scripture.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the sheets home with kids alongside the activity page so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.