



# THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

LESSON AT A GLANCE

■ New Apostolic Church USA



## CURIOSITY

An object lesson, experiment, or activity that sparks curiosity, encourages exploration, and gets kids thinking about the wonder of God.

- Welcome Question: *If you could take a road trip anywhere, where would you go?*
- Brain Teaser: "Aha!" Moment
- Declaring God's Wonder

## BELIEF *Choose either Hear It or Experience It and supplement with the video*

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Opening Prayer
- God's Big Story: Hear It, Watch It, Experience It!
- Connecting the Wonder Truth

## FAITH

An intentional conversation that helps kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own, emboldening their faith and fostering a deeper understanding of their place in God's kingdom.

- Discussion Questions for Younger and Older Kids
- Small Group Prayer Time

## IDENTITY

An interactive worship response activity that creates space for God to remind kids of these core truths: I am known, I am loved, I am led, and my life can tell of God's wonder.

- Responding in Worship: Hands-on Prayer Walk
- Blessing Your Kids

## THE ROAD TO EMMAUS LESSON 4

NAC USA  
Goals and Objectives  
[IA 4-6, 7, 8, 9, 14-16, 17, 18, 19, 24-26, 27, 28, 29](#)  
[IB 1, 3, 5 IC 1-13 IE 1-3](#)  
[IIA 1, 4, 7 IIIA 1-3](#)

WONDER TRUTH:  
Jesus Surprises Us

SCRIPTURE:  
[Luke 24](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY:  
After His death on the cross, 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:  
[Psalm 77:12](#)  
*I will spend time thinking about everything you have done. I will consider all your mighty acts.*



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# FOR LEADERS

## A MESSAGE FOR CHILDREN'S LEADERS

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

Dear Sunday School Teachers,

The two travelers on the road to Emmaus were weighed down with disappointment and discouragement. They had hoped Jesus would transform everything—free them from Roman rule and restore Israel to the glory of King David's reign.

But instead, they witnessed His arrest, torture, and death.

As you read [Luke 24:13–49](#), notice how even after hearing reports that Jesus had risen, Cleopas and his companion were still overwhelmed with sadness. Perhaps they struggled to believe the news. Perhaps they thought the crucifixion had disqualified Jesus from being the all-powerful Redeemer they'd been waiting for.

Everything changed when a stranger joined them on their journey. He walked alongside them, explaining how the Scriptures pointed to the Messiah. That teaching was encouraging, even surprising.

But the true transformation came when they realized who the stranger was. It was Jesus! In that moment, their hearts burned within them, and their sadness turned to joy. They were surprised, delighted, and forever changed.

This week, as you lead your Sunday School class, pray for your students to have their own Emmaus moments. Ask the Holy Spirit to open their hearts to the presence of Jesus—not as someone distant or abstract, but as someone real, alive, and with them in the room. Pray that they come to see Jesus as a Savior who wants to walk with them every day and be part of their lives forever.

How will that moment unfold? Only God knows. But one thing is certain: He desires to make Himself real in the minds and hearts of your kids—and in yours too.

And don't be surprised if He does something unexpected to reveal Himself. Pray for those surprises. Watch for them. And when they happen, be grateful.

Because you'll know exactly who is behind it.

With love and joy,

**The Faith Arc Team**

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## A ROAD MAP

### 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.

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### WELCOME QUESTION

**SUPPLIES:** paper, colored pencils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional), **Welcome Question Slide**

Before kids arrive, display the **Welcome Question Slide** or write the following question on a whiteboard: "If you could take a road trip anywhere, where would you go?" Set out sheets of paper and coloring utensils.

As kids arrive, warmly welcome them by name and ask them to Check In.

#### All Ages

Use the feelings chart on the next page and ask each child how they are feeling (refrain from asking "How are you?" as children may be accustomed to responding with "fine"). You may want to print and post the feelings chart in your classroom for ease of use.

- Allow each child to name their feeling or to use a color to name their feeling. Older children might use words, younger children might point to the pictures or use the colors to express their feelings.
- There are no wrong feelings and all feelings should be acknowledged.
- Acknowledge how children feel by giving each child time and space to share anything they might need or want to share in regard to their feelings. For example, you can ask "Why are you angry?" or "What made you sad?"
- If you can, address the feeling (hunger/thirst - provide a snack/drink, sadness - give a hug, joy - give a high five, tired - let the child rest, anger - a calming space, etc.).
- Keep in mind throughout the lesson how each child is feeling and that feelings may change during your time with the child.
- If you notice a change, you may want to allow the child to rename their feeling and again address the feeling if needed.
- Acknowledge all feelings, concerns, joys, and celebrations in your opening and closing prayer. Use a grace-based approach to the learning as feelings will impact how children learn. (adapted from the Zones of Regulation)

Show them the **Welcome Question**. If needed, explain that a road trip is a long-distance journey traveled by car or bus. Invite kids to illustrate their answers to the Welcome Question if they choose. If you have younger kids, be sure to read the question for them.

#### At your start time...

Greet everyone enthusiastically and call on several kids to share their answers to the **Welcome Question**: ***If you could take a road trip anywhere, where would you go?*** Invite curiosity by pointing out that road trips can either be planned out ahead of time or can be spontaneous "surprise me" kinds of trips with no plan or agenda.

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# SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL CHECK IN

Angry



Scared



Panicked



Inconsolable



Happy



Focused



Calm



Proud



Worried



Frustrated



Silly



Excited



Sad



Bored



Tired



Sick



Some people prefer to know ahead of time exactly where they're going and what they'll be doing on a road trip, and some people prefer to just be surprised. Today we're going to hear about two people who were on a road trip back to the village of Emmaus. These two experienced quite a surprise when a very special and unexpected person showed up out of nowhere and started traveling with them! But first, it's time to be curious.

## BRAIN TEASER: "AHA!" MOMENT

**SUPPLIES:** stickers or other small prizes (optional), **Aha Moment Slide**, **Emmaus Wonder Truth Slide**

Display the **Aha Moment Slide**. Ask kids whether they've ever had an aha moment, a moment when they suddenly understood something or realized something was important. **Today you're going to play a game to see how many correct aha guesses you can get as a group. If you get up to seven correct guesses, we'll all stop and celebrate!**

Gather kids together in a group and have them all face the same direction while sitting. Invite one volunteer to stand in front of the group for seven seconds, allowing time for everyone to notice certain details about that person's appearance (for example, wearing glasses, both shoes are tied, hair is pulled back, etc.). After seven seconds, invite the volunteer to travel to a designated corner of the room where the rest of the kids can't see him. (Remind the group to remain facing forward!) There, he will change one small thing about his appearance and then return to the group to see if anyone recognizes the difference. If kids want to make a guess, invite them to raise their hand and say, "Aha!" and share what they think is different. Once someone has guessed the one thing that person changed about his appearance, invite another volunteer forward and play another round. Keep a tally of how many aha guesses the group gets correct. Once the group reaches seven, take a moment to celebrate with foot fives! Also consider passing out congratulatory "surprises" (optional small prizes) as kids celebrate.

**Teaching Tip (For Younger Kids):** *If kids are stumped, ask leading questions about certain parts of the volunteer's appearance. For example, "Do you notice anything different about her feet?"*

**Make It Inclusive:** *For kids with cognitive developmental disabilities that limit their participation in activities like this one, assign a volunteer buddy to navigate the activity with them.*

Display the **Wonder Truth Slide**. Aha moments are worth celebrating, especially when you suddenly and surprisingly discover something you didn't fully see before. God's big story is full of people who experience surprises and aha moments. Not surprisingly, the person behind some of the biggest surprises and aha moments in history and even in our lives today is Jesus Himself! Today's Wonder Truth is: **JESUS SURPRISES US.**

### DECLARING GOD'S WONDER

Write on a white board or chart paper or display the **Declaration Slide**. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

**Thank You, God, that You are good!** (Kids repeat.)

**You made me on purpose, for a purpose.** (Kids repeat.)

**And I am Your kid!** (Kids repeat.)

**You know me, love me, and lead me.** (Kids repeat.)

**Your big story is full of amazing surprises.** (Kids repeat.)

**Thank You for continuing to surprise me today!** (Kids repeat.)

**My life can tell of Your wonder!** (Kids repeat.)

## OPENING PRAYER

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **God, You know us, love us, and lead us! We pray Your Holy Spirit will lead us to aha moments about You and that our eyes will be open to see and understand how You made the way to forgiveness and freedom and to all the ways that You are still at work in our lives today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

## GOD'S BIG STORY

This lesson includes three opportunities for your kids to enter the story – we recommend you choose **HEAR IT!** or **EXPERIENCE IT!** and supplement with the **WATCH IT!** video. **HEAR IT!** is read directly from the Bible. **EXPERIENCE IT!** is an interactive story-telling activity.

## Hear It!

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (1 per kid), **The Road to Emmaus Title Slide**

Display the **Emmaus Title Slide**. Explain to kids that they are going to hear a story from the New Testament about what happened after Jesus died on the cross, offering the way out of slavery to sin and into freedom and a forever relationship with God. Guide kids to find the third Gospel, the Gospel of Luke, in their Bible's table of contents. Help them find [chapter 24](#).

**Let's start by reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we will watch and experience more of the story!**

Invite three confident readers to read one of the following sections of today's passage out loud while everyone else follows along: [Luke 24:13-17](#), [Luke 24:20-23](#), and [Luke 24:27-32](#). If a pair of sandals is available, place the sandals in front of each volunteer when it's his turn to read and explain that the people in the story would have worn sandals as they walked.

## Watch It!

Watch [The Road to Emmaus God's Big Story video!](#)

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**WORD OF WONDER:**

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## Experience It!

**SUPPLIES:** posterboard, permanent marker (prep only), coloring utensils, wrapped present, clipboards (optional, 1 per kid), party supplies (i.e. party bunting, party hats, streamers, party blowers), **Surprise Party Sheet** (1 per kid, printed 2 sided)

Ahead of time, print a **Surprise Party Sheet** for each kid. Fold each sheet in half to make a four-page photo album with "Jesus' Surprise Party!" as the front cover and the page labeled "Jerusalem" as the back. If clipboards are available, clip each book to a board.

**Make It Inclusive:** *Provide stickers for kids with fine-motor or developmental challenges that make it difficult to draw. Invite them to decorate their photo albums with stickers.*

On a posterboard in landscape orientation, write with a permanent marker "3, 2, 1 ..." as large as you can on one side. Write "SURPRISE!" on the reverse side. This is your cue card to count down (and flip over) each time you want the kids to yell, "Surprise!"

Decorate your teaching area: Bring out whatever party supplies you've got in the back of your closet! Party bunting, party hats, streamers, party blowers, etc. Place a wrapped present labeled "The Promise" somewhere in the party mix. (If possible, repurpose the wrapped present labeled "The Promise" from Connected Easter Lesson 1: The Burning Bush.)

**Teaching Tip:** *There will be many places to "whisper" in this story. Use a stage whisper, which is directed toward the kids, meant to be heard, and communicates that you and the kids are in on the surprise together.*

Make a noisy and enthusiastic entrance with some party supplies, perhaps with a party blower. **It's a party!** And then, in a whisper: **But shhhh! It's a surprise party! And we need to practice!** Using the giant posterboard cue card, teach the kids that when you give them the countdown cue "3, 2, 1," they will shout, "Surprise!" Consider using your party blower, or some other way to make noise, when they say, "Surprise!" You will repeat this multiple times during the story, so ask the kids to keep an eye out for your cue. **By the way, who is the surprise for?** Ask it as a real question, as if you truly don't know, and get some answers. Someone will likely say, "Jesus," but if not, ask them what their photo album books say: "Jesus' Surprise Party." **We're surprising Jesus? But ... wait.** Pause and think. **There's nothing that could surprise Jesus. He is God and knows everything!** Pause and think again. **You know what, I think we have this backwards ...**

**You see this present?** Hold up the wrapped present labeled "The Promise." **This present is for you. It's a promise that God made a long time ago, and Jesus is the promise! He was a big surprise. Almost no one expected Him to come to earth as a helpless baby. Almost no one expected He would die. And almost no one expected He would come back to life again! Our story today will show us how surprised Jesus' friends were when He came back to life. It's "Jesus' Surprise Party!" He surprises us.** Ask the kids to hang on to their photo albums and listen for more instructions to come.

**On the day Jesus rose from the dead, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and found it** (use the cue card and count down 3, 2, 1, SURPRISE!) **empty! The tomb was empty! Two angels appeared to Mary and the women who were with her. The angels told them, "Jesus is not here! He has risen! Remember how he told you he would rise" (Luke 24:6). The women went to tell the disciples and those with them. But the disciples didn't believe it. The women's words made no sense to them.** Ask the kids to listen carefully to the next parts of the story and take a picture with their minds of the moments that are most surprising to them. These "snapshots" will be pictures they can draw in their "Jesus' Surprise Party" photo albums when prompted.

Later that day, two of Jesus' followers were walking on a road to a village called Emmaus, which was near Jerusalem. On the way, they talked about everything that had happened. Then (use the cue card and count down 3, 2, 1, SURPRISE!) *Jesus Himself showed up*, but "God kept them from recognizing him" (Luke 24:16). The man (whisper: who was Jesus) asked the two followers, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" (Luke 24:17). They looked sad. Cleopas, one of the two followers, said, "Are you the only person visiting Jerusalem who doesn't know? Don't you know about the things that have happened there in the last few days?" (Luke 24:18). Whisper: Of course, Jesus knew, but He asked them anyway, "What things?" (Luke 24:19).

They reported what had happened, how the chief priests and Jewish leaders handed Jesus over to die on a cross. "But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to set Israel free" (Luke 24:21) they said. Jesus' death had left them confused. Then they told the man (whisper: who was Jesus) about the women at the tomb. The men continued, "Some of our friends went to the tomb. They saw it was empty, just as the women had said" (Luke 24:24).

Jesus' response was a (use the cue card and count down 3, 2, 1, SURPRISE!). He said to them, "*How foolish you are! How long it takes you to believe all that the prophets said!*" (Luke 24:25, emphasis added). Then He told them that the Messiah had to suffer and explained what the Scriptures said about Him. Jesus helped them understand the words of Moses and the prophets. Invite the kids to draw a picture "snapshot" on the second page of their photo album, "The Road," of what most surprised them when Jesus appeared to the two followers on the road to Emmaus. Allow them time to draw before continuing.

**Teaching Tip:** Some kids will want to draw detailed scenes, especially those who tend toward perfectionism. Let kids work more on their drawings at the end of the lesson or invite them to finish them later at home. For now, encourage them to keep their drawings quick and simple.

As they approached Emmaus, the man (whisper: Jesus!) kept walking, but the two followers didn't want Him to leave. They invited Him to stay with them and share a meal. At the table, the man (whisper: Jesus!) took some bread and gave thanks to God. He broke the bread and started handing it to the two followers. When He did, they got an even bigger (use the cue card and count down 3, 2, 1, SURPRISE!). "Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him" (Luke 24:31). *They were looking at the risen Jesus!* Then He disappeared. Now the two followers understood why their hearts had felt warm with excitement as Jesus spoke to them on the road. Invite the kids to draw a picture "snapshot" on the third page of their photo album, "The Table," of what surprised them most when Jesus shared a meal with these two followers. Allow them time to draw before continuing.

The two followers got up and returned to Jerusalem. When they got there, they learned that Peter, one of Jesus' disciples, had also seen Jesus. They told the disciples and those gathered with them what had happened. Jesus was alive!

Then the disciples got the (use the cue card and count down 3, 2, 1, SURPRISE!) of a lifetime. *Jesus Himself appeared and stood with them.* He said, "May you have peace!" (Luke 24:36). The disciples were terrified because they still couldn't believe what was happening. Was Jesus alive, or was He a ghost? Jesus showed them His hands and feet. He invited them to touch Him and see that He had a body and bones. He even asked for a bite to eat. He wasn't a ghost at all! He was alive! Invite the kids to draw a picture "snapshot" on the last page of their photo album, "Jerusalem," of what surprised them most when Jesus appeared to His disciples in Jerusalem. Allow them time to draw before continuing.

Jesus helped His disciples understand that what happened to Him was written about in the words of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms. Hold the present in your hands. Jesus is “The Promise”! Now those who believe in Jesus can share His name with others so people from all nations can be set free from sin and forgiven. God’s love for the world is not too good to be true. It’s real, and Jesus is alive! Jesus surprises us!

## CONNECTING THE WONDER TRUTH

Display the **Wonder Truth Slide**. Pose the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God’s big story:

**Our Wonder Truth today is JESUS SURPRISES US. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story?** Allow kids to answer freely.

When Jesus rose from the dead, God’s promises were fulfilled. Everything that Jesus’ followers had hoped for was happening! Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior who makes the way for us to be forgiven and live with God forever. After His resurrection, the good news of Jesus would spread to people all over the world, including us!

## ELEMENTARY

Divide your group into smaller groups based on age. If your group is already small, stay together for this time.

### QUESTIONS: YOUNGER KIDS

- **As Jesus' two followers walked to Emmaus, why did they feel sad and confused?** *(They thought Jesus was dead, His tomb had been found empty, etc.)*
- **As they walked back to Jerusalem, how do you think these two people felt? Why?**
- **What surprising things did Jesus say and do to help His friends start to recognize Him, or know and remember Him?** *(He walked and talked with two of His followers, He broke bread, He appeared to His disciples, He showed them His hands and feet, He asked for food to eat, etc.)*
- **Do you think Jesus still says and does surprising things today to help us know and remember Him?**
- **What are some things you think Jesus wants you to know and remember about Him?**
- **How can you share those important truths about Jesus with others?**

Today in God's big story, the two people on the road to Emmaus didn't recognize Jesus at first. Then, Jesus helped them understand the truth of who He is and opened their eyes to see Him face to face! Let's pray right now and thank God for helping us see that Jesus is alive and still at work surprising His children today.

### PRAYER TIME: YOUNGER KIDS

Open your prayer time by thanking God for making the way for us to be free from sin and to have a forever relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus. Invite kids to say their own prayer of thanks to Jesus for the good ways that He surprises us. If they aren't sure what to pray, encourage them to repeat a simple prayer after you, such as "Jesus, thank You for loving me!" or "Jesus, thank You for surprising me with Your love!"

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## QUESTIONS: OLDER KIDS

- How were the two followers of Jesus feeling as they walked to Emmaus? Why were they feeling that way? (*doubtful, sad, hopeless, confused*)
- How do you think the two people felt as they walked back to Jerusalem after seeing Jesus? Why?
- Jesus opened the eyes of the two people on the road to Emmaus in two ways: first, He opened their spiritual eyes to understand what the Scriptures say about the Messiah, and second, He opened their physical eyes to recognize who He was. Which of these eye openings do you think surprised them more? Why do you think that?
- In today's story, Jesus helped the two people (and later His disciples) understand who He was. What are some ways you can help others understand the truth about Jesus?
- What are some things you can do to help keep your spiritual eyes open to fully understand God's truth?

**Teaching Tip:** *If kids struggle to think of things they can do to keep their spiritual eyes open, suggest simple spiritual practices such as listening to the word from the altar, prayer (asking God for understanding), memorizing Scripture, talking to a trusted adult who is a faithful member, writing prayers to God in a prayer journal, remembering and listing the ways God has been faithful in the past, etc.*

Today in God's big story, the two men on the road to Emmaus were talking about Jesus to Jesus Himself, and they didn't even know it! Jesus surprised them by helping them understand who He is and why He had come. Jesus then opened their physical eyes to recognize that it was Him! Let's thank God for helping us understand that His Son, Jesus, is alive and still at work surprising His children today.

## PRAYER TIME: OLDER KIDS

Open your prayer time by praising God for making the way for all people to have a forever relationship with Him through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus. Invite kids to share their own praises for how Jesus has surprised people throughout God's big story and how He is alive and still surprising us today! Then invite kids to say a prayer for someone else who needs their eyes opened to see the whole truth about Jesus.

**Even though we can't see Jesus with our eyes, we know He is alive and with us! We can feel His love and presence, especially when we come to God's house—our church.**

When the minister speaks at the altar, he is sharing a message from God, our heavenly Father, and from Jesus. Even if you don't understand everything, know this: what we hear from the altar is always true. It can help us in our lives and is part of God's special promise to us!

Let's think about the Third Commandment together. It reminds us to take time every week to be in God's house, just like we are today! Let's say it together.

*(Say the Third Commandment using choral response or from memory.)*

Today, while you're listening in church, I encourage you to pay close attention. See if you can hear a special message from God or Jesus during the service. Afterward, I'd love for you to share what you heard with me!

### RESPONDING IN WORSHIP: HANDS-ON PRAYER WALK

**SUPPLIES:** masking or painter's tape, disposable tablecloth, clear plastic bin, clear water beads, water, towels, [Responding in Worship Slide](#), [Connected Easter Elementary Spotify playlist](#), [Prayer Walk Slide](#)

**Teaching Tip:** *New to water beads? No problem! You can order clear water beads from many online retailers. They are nontoxic beads that contain water and work great for sensory play! When placed in water, the clear beads can be felt but not seen.*

Ahead of time, pour a package of clear water beads into a clear bin full of water. Make sure to reserve enough time for the beads to grow to full size (usually 6–12 hours). Set the bin out of sight for the first part of the lesson. If your group is large, consider preparing multiple water bins, each with water beads in it.

Shortly before the activity, place the bin of water on a disposable tablecloth on the floor across the room from where kids will gather for this activity. Set towels off to the side. With floor tape, create a "road" that leads to the bin. (You can create the road ahead of time or ask an adult volunteer to do it during the FAITH section of the lesson.) If using multiple water bins, set each up as a separate station with its own road leading to it.

Cue the [Connected Easter Elementary Spotify playlist](#) to the song "Open the Eyes of My Heart."

**Make It Inclusive:** *Kids with sensory challenges might not want to put their hands into the water, especially without knowing what surprise is inside. That's OK. If needed, tell them what to expect ahead of time, and have paper and coloring utensils available for kids who would rather draw or write their prayers than do the activity as planned.*

Display the [Responding in Worship Slide](#) and gather kids together. When Jesus first showed up and started walking with two of His followers on the road to Emmaus, "God kept them from recognizing him" ([Luke 24:16](#)). They had no idea they were looking at the risen Jesus until Jesus opened their spiritual eyes—the eyes of their heart—to understand everything the Scriptures said about Him. After they recognized the whole truth about Jesus, their physical eyes were opened to see that the person walking with them was Jesus Himself!

In the midst of His followers' doubt and sadness and confusion, Jesus showed up and opened the eyes of their hearts to 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 as He knew the hearts and needs of the two people in today's story. He loves us too much to leave us alone in our doubt and sadness and confusion. He wants to lead us to a full understanding of who He is and what it truly means to follow Him.

#### THE ROAD TO EMMAUS LESSON 4

NAC USA  
Goals and Objectives  
[IA 4-6, 7, 8, 9, 14-16, 17, 18, 19, 24-26, 27, 28, 29](#)  
[IB 1, 3, 5](#) [IC 1-13](#) [IE 1-3](#)  
[IIA 1, 4, 7](#) [IIIA 1-3](#)

**WONDER TRUTH:**  
Jesus Surprises Us

**SCRIPTURE:**  
[Luke 24](#)

**GOD'S BIG STORY:**  
After His death on the cross, 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:**  
[Psalm 77:12](#)  
*I will spend time thinking about everything you have done. I will consider all your mighty acts.*



Lesson PPT Slides



Lesson PDF Slides



Lesson Printables

## ELEMENTARY

Display the **Prayer Walk Slide**. Invite kids to repeat after you the two sentences of the following prayer shown on the screen: **Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. I want to see You.**

Show kids the taped road that leads to the bin of water across the room. Tell them they will each have a chance to walk down the road, dip their hands in the water, and be surprised! As they walk down the road, invite kids to think of a situation that's causing them to feel doubtful, sad, or confused, like the two people in today's story. When kids get to the bin of water, encourage them to say the first sentence of the prayer: "Open the eyes of my heart, Lord." Then as they dip their hands into the water and discover the surprise (the water beads), encourage them to say the second sentence of the prayer: "I want to see You." As they turn around and travel back down the road to their seats, invite kids to pray silently, asking God to help them feel His presence, understand His truth, and see Him at work in the situation they're facing.

Some kids, especially those experiencing trauma, may be reluctant to focus on a difficult situation in their lives. That's OK. If needed, provide other prayer options, such as saying a prayer of praise and thinking of all the amazing things they know are true about God.

Play "Open the Eyes of My Heart" from the [Connected Easter Elementary Spotify playlist](#) as kids take turns traveling down the road, dipping their hands into the bin of water, and traveling back down the road to their seats. Pass towels around as kids get back to their seats. If your group is large and you have multiple water bin stations, help kids form smaller groups and assign each to a different station.

**Teaching Tip (For Older Kids):** *As time allows, invite kids to be curious as to why they couldn't see the water beads in the water at first. The scientific explanation is that water beads and water have the same index of refraction (the bending of light as it passes from one clear substance into another). With the same index of refraction, both the water beads and water slow down light at the same speed, causing the beads to disappear when submerged in water.*

Gather kids together and close this 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 for all the good surprises (big and small) that a life with Him has to offer.

**Disclaimer:** *We have permission from the publisher to use the Spotify music playlist solely for the purposes of the Sunday School hour, Vacation Bible School experiences, fellowship events, or for listening at home. Please note that this playlist is not to be used during the divine service or for any streamed or broadcasted occasion.*

## BLESSING YOUR KIDS

Write on a white board or chart paper or display the **Blessing Slide**. Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

**Blessing:** **May you have eyes open to see all the ways God is at work in your life. May you praise Him as you recognize His surprises, big and small, and thank Him for the biggest surprise of all—that Jesus' death and resurrection make it possible to live free from sin as God's kid forever!**

# GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

## ELEMENTARY

This additional game or activity is optional and can be used in the lesson where a movement break is needed or there's extra time. We've included teaching tips and tips to make the game and activity inclusive for all kids. Printables and slides for the game and activity, if needed, are included in the links within this lesson.

## ICE CREAM CONE SMASH

**SUPPLIES:** small paper plates, ice cream cones (1 per kid), small candies (jelly beans, chocolate-shelled candies, round fruit-flavored candies, individually wrapped candies etc.), table

**Allergy Caution:** *This activity includes possible food allergens!*

Place ice cream cones upside down, each on a small paper plate on the tabletop (one cone per kid per small paper plate). Underneath each upside-down cone place a small candy. Kids will take turns smashing one cone to reveal a surprise. (If your group is large, set up multiple tables with upside-down ice cream cones on them.) Once they've revealed their prize, invite them to take their prize and their smashed cone and to enjoy both as a snack.

Once all the kids have had a turn smashing a cone and discovering their prizes, gather everyone together and continue: **Just like we were surprised to see what was underneath the ice cream cones we smashed, Jesus surprised His followers. Jesus appeared to His followers after His death! Jesus is alive— that's the best surprise ever!**

### THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

LESSON 4

NAC USA

Goals and Objectives

[IA 4-6, 7, 8, 9, 14-16, 17, 18, 19, 24-26, 27, 28, 29](#)

[IB 1, 3, 5 IC 1-13 IE 1-3](#)

[IIA 1, 4, 7 IIIA 1-3](#)

WONDER TRUTH:

Jesus Surprises Us

SCRIPTURE:

[Luke 24](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY:

After His death on the cross, 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:

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*I will spend time thinking about everything you have done. I will consider all your mighty acts.*



Lesson  
PPT Slides



Lesson  
PDF Slides



Lesson  
Printables