

Preschool Lesson

After the Resurrection Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Luke 24 and John 20

Lesson # 11 Jesus Appears to His Disciples, from the curriculum

Passage: Luke 24:36 – 49; John 20:24 – 29;

Verse: Faith comes by hearing and hearing through the Word of Christ. Romans 10:17

On Easter Jesus appeared to Mary. He then appeared to 2 disciples who had left Jerusalem and were going to Emmaus. Jesus told them all about Himself from the Old Testament. He went into the house and ate with the two men. When He blessed the food God opened their eyes and they realized the man was Jesus! And then He left them.

Now the 2 men have gone back to Jerusalem just like Jesus instructed them. They join the disciples (not Judas, and Thomas was not there).

Summary: Jesus came into the house and showed Himself in the flesh to the disciples. He ate fish with them. Then He opened their minds so they could believe. Jesus opens the eyes of our hearts with His Word and we believe.

Introducing the Lesson: Talk about keys and what they do. We think “seeing is believing” and often that is true. But that cannot be applied to faith in Jesus. The “key” that opens our hearts to believing is the Word of God. We hear the Word and we believe.

Consider showing a ring of keys and telling the children what each key “unlocks.”

Tell your child/children that Jesus has given us a very special key that unlocks our hearts to believing and loving Him—the Bible.

Maybe you remember the verse that unlocked your heart.

Tell the story using the curriculum sheet. There is information that has not been included. Decide what you want to add depending on the attention span of your child/children.

Ask questions after the story: (Hearing + talking = learning)

1. When did the disciples first see Jesus after the resurrection? That night in the locked room
2. Which disciple was missing when the rest of the disciples first saw Jesus? Thomas
3. Which disciple never saw Jesus after the resurrection? Judas
4. Did Thomas believe the disciples’ report that Jesus was alive? No, he needed proof.
5. What did Thomas need to do in order to believe Jesus was alive? He wanted to touch His wounds.
6. How long did Thomas have to wait before he saw Jesus? About one week
7. Where were the disciples when they next saw Jesus? Back in the house
8. How do you know the disciples were afraid? The door was locked.
9. Why were the disciples afraid? Jesus had been killed and they were afraid they might be next.
10. How did Jesus greet the disciples when He appeared? He said: Peace be with you.
11. How do you know that Jesus knows all things? He told Thomas to touch His wounds.
12. What did Thomas do when Jesus spoke to him? He believed and praised God.
13. Why did Jesus say that you and I are blessed? We believe in Him without seeing Him.

What should you do when you think you need help believing that Jesus is your Savior? Pray and ask Jesus to help you.

Lesson calendar:

April 19 Jesus appears to Mary

April 26 Jesus walks to Emmaus with 2 men

May 3 #11 Disciples and Thomas

May 10 Catch of fish, breakfast

May 17 Peter and Jesus

May 24 Jesus ascends to heaven

Lesson Eleven

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

Heart Preparation & Bible Background

Evidence steadily accumulated that Jesus had risen from the dead. The women had found the tomb empty. Cleopas and his companion reported that they had walked and talked with Jesus. Then Jesus suddenly appeared among the disciples as they were gathered behind locked doors in Jerusalem.

At first, the disciples were terrified by the appearance of the risen Lord. But soon they were filled with amazement and joy as Jesus showed them the nail marks and ate and drank with them, proving that he was real, that he was victorious over death, and that the Word of God was true.

Luke 24:45 tells us “he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures.” Immediately the significance of Christ’s death and resurrection took hold of their hearts and minds, and they now understood their calling: they would bear witness to the gospel right there in Jerusalem and then they would take the message to all the nations. Later on, the risen Lord would send the Holy Spirit to empower them for the task (vss. 46–49).

Jesus singled out *and* pronounced his blessing on those who would come to trust in him through the witness of the disciples. “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed,” Jesus said (John 20:29b).

We who trust in the atoning work of Christ are among the blessed. Our belief is firmly based on the Word of God. The Holy Spirit works in our hearts, enabling us to understand the good news, believe without seeing, and bring the Word of God to those around us.

As you get ready to tell the Bible story to the children, pray that they will come to trust in the Savior even though they cannot see him. Ask the Lord Jesus to forgive their sins and pour out his goodness on them as they learn to walk by faith and obey God’s Word.



Bible Truth

Jesus appeared to his disciples, showing them that he had risen from the dead. Jesus said those who would believe in him without ever seeing him would be blessed.

Scripture

Luke 24:36–49

John 20:24–29



Lesson Focus

Believe God’s Word that Jesus is our living Savior.

Goals for the Children

- Tell how Jesus showed himself to his disciples.
- Tell what Jesus said about believing in him.
- Pray for faith to believe in Jesus.



Memory Minute

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
John 20:31a

2 Bible Time

When children are settled and ready to listen, open your Bible to Luke 24:36–49. Keep it open before you as you teach.

It was evening and the disciples were gathered in a house in Jerusalem. Cleopas and his friend found them there and said, “We have seen Jesus! We walked and talked with him. He is alive!”

While they were still talking, Jesus himself came and stood in the middle of the room. “Peace be with you,” he said to them.

The disciples were very frightened. They wondered whether they were seeing a ghost. How could he come in when the doors were locked? *Show the picture of the disciples, Teaching Aid 11.*

“Why are you troubled?” Jesus asked. “Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see.” The disciples saw the marks left by the nails of the cross.

Then Jesus asked, “Do you have anything here to eat?” The disciples gave him a piece of broiled fish, and Jesus ate it to show them that he really was alive.

Then Jesus taught them from God’s Word about himself. He was the Savior promised by God. Jesus explained that he had suffered and died so sinners could be forgiven. All who trusted him and turned away from their sins would be forgiven.

Jesus told the disciples to go and preach this message to everyone, starting right there in Jerusalem. Jesus said he would send the Holy Spirit to give them power.

The disciples listened to Jesus. Jesus made them able to understand that he was stronger than death, and that by rising from the dead Jesus brought life to all those who put their trust in the Savior. The disciples began to understand that all that had happened to Jesus was part of God’s plan.

Turn in your Bible to John 20:24–29 to complete the Bible story. Thomas, one of the disciples, was not there that night. When the others told Thomas that Jesus had risen from the dead, Thomas said, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were . . . I will not believe it.”

A week later, the disciples were again in the same house, and this time Thomas was with them. The doors were locked.

Suddenly Jesus joined Thomas and the other disciples in the room. “Peace be with you!” Jesus said. He told Thomas to reach out and touch the marks on his hand and side. Thomas believed right away.

“My Lord and my God!” Thomas said, his heart filled with worship and trust in Jesus. *Show the picture of Thomas, Teaching Aid 11.*

Jesus looked at Thomas and said, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet believed.”



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Jesus has provided a way to be sure that we understand what God reveals to us in Scripture. He has sent His Holy Spirit to live in each believer. The Holy Spirit makes us able to rightly understand and to receive what Jesus has to say to us in the Bible. Read John 14:16–17 and 1 Corinthians 2:12.

Starr Meade, *Training Hearts, Teaching Minds*, p. 82



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We walk by Faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

Jesus came and stood among His disciples and said: "Peace be with you! Reach out your hands and touch Me."

Draw a picture of a hand.

Jesus asked them, "Do you have any thing here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish. He wanted them to know He was really alive.

Draw a picture of a fish.

Jesus said to them, "Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me."

Draw a picture of a Bible.

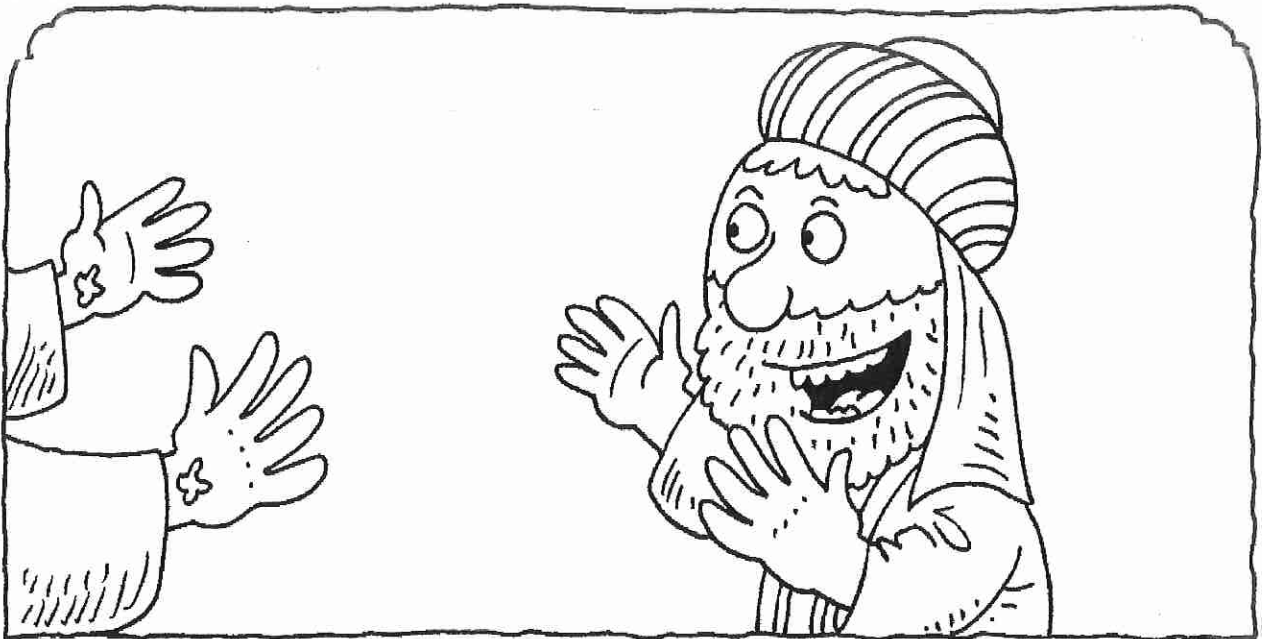
Jesus said, "Blessed are those people who have not seen Me and yet believe."

Draw a picture of a heart with a cross in it.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples



One week after Easter when Jesus had risen from the grave He joined His disciples. They were all gathered together. Everyone was so surprised to see Jesus right there with them. Thomas was the most surprised. He had said that he didn't believe Jesus was alive. He needed to touch Him and see Him.



Jesus saw Thomas and said to him, "You believe I am alive only because you have seen Me with your very own eyes."

The Bible tells us that we don't need to see Jesus with our eyes to believe in Him.
"Faith comes by hearing and hearing through the Word of Christ." Romans 10:17