



A Midnight's Walk By Deborah Wassenberg

The title for this lesson is from a sermon by C. H. Spurgeon (Jesus near but Unrecognized No. 1180) and gave me the idea of telling the story of the Road to Emmaus with the ending as the beginning!

You Tube Song Suggestions:

- Kids Easter Medley (Chris Christian)
- Jesus is Alive (YancynotNancy)
- Christ Arose (Go Fish)
- I Believe (Go Fish)
- Easter Song Jesus is Alive (Crossroads Kids' Club)

Bible Lesson: The Road to Emmaus/Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Bible Reference: Luke 24:13-48

You'll find illustrations for PowerPoint or flashcards at Free Bible Images.

Suggestions for Visual Aids:

1. Two friends hurrying along a road at midnight
2. Arriving at the door of their friends house
3. Cleopas
4. Disciples puzzled
5. The road to Emmaus
6. Triumphant entry
7. Jesus on the Cross
8. Tomb
9. Empty tomb
10. Jesus explaining Scriptures
11. Begging Him to stay
12. Jesus breaking bread
13. Jesus appears in the room
14. Jesus eating

Words:

1. It was the dead of night.
Two friends were walking, almost running, along a dark road.
They were heading to Jerusalem **from** Emmaus.
It was a three hour walk but they didn't care.
They weren't tired even though they'd just walked the three hours
the other way **to** Emmaus.
They were excited because something amazing had just happened to them
and they had to tell the disciples about it.
2. They pounded on the door of their friends' house.
The door opened and they were quickly allowed in.
Their friends inside the house were confused and were asking questions all at once.
'Why are you back?' 'You just left!'
'What's happened?' 'Why are you here?'
3. 'We had to return right away,' said Cleopas.
'We had to tell you who we saw,' said his friend.
'Yes,' added Cleopas. 'The Lord is risen!'
'It's true!' said his friend. 'Every word of it. We have just seen Jesus!'
4. 'What?' said one of the disciples.
'Sit down, both of you,' said another.
'What's this you're saying?'
'Tell us from the beginning.'
5. Cleopas took a breath.
'As you know, we set out from here some hours ago.
We were walking slowly to Emmaus.
We were sad and there was no reason to hurry.
We were going over and over what had happened to Jesus.'
6. 'That's right,' said his friend.
'We just couldn't understand why Jesus died.
He did miracles! He was a great teacher.
He was our king. He was meant to rule.
When Jesus entered Jerusalem and everybody was
waving palm branches and calling out
'Hosanna, hosanna!' we all thought the same thing.
Jesus, the King of the Jews, is going to make everything right for our people.'

7. 'Instead, Jesus was arrested,' said Cleopas, 'he was beaten, whipped and spat on.'
'They put that crown of thorns on His head and made fun of Him.
Then He was nailed on the Cross and He died.
And all of our hopes and dreams died with Him,' he shrugged.
'Well, we were all disappointed, weren't we?'
8. 'We know all this,' said one of the inhabitants of the house.
'It doesn't explain what you've just told us.'
'That's just it,' said Cleopas jumping to his feet.
'We actually met a man who asked us what we were talking about!
The whole time we were walking and talking we didn't know
there was someone following us and listening to what we were saying.
We only realised the man was there when he asked us what we were
talking about and why were we so sad.
I mean, I was amazed he didn't know.
I actually said, 'Are you the only one in Jerusalem who doesn't know
what's happened over the last few days?'
I was thinking, 'Have you been living under a rock or something?'
9. 'Ha!' said Cleopas' friend. 'Imagine if you'd said that!
Anyway, we told the man that some of our women had gone to the tomb
but didn't find Jesus' body and that angels had told them that Jesus was alive.
I explained to the man that you had gone to the tomb to check for yourselves and had
found it just as the women had said, but that you didn't see Jesus, either.
I mean, we were looking right at Him and didn't see it was Him.
10. 'Then the man said to us, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the
prophets wrote in the Scriptures.
Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before
entering his glory?"
Then he gave us an amazing history lesson and took us through the writings of Moses
and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures about himself.
Jesus, I mean.
Only, you see, we still didn't know it was Him!
11. 'We really should have known, hey Cleopas?' said his friend.
He turned back to the disciples.
'Talking about it later we both felt our hearts burning inside us as he was speaking
and explaining the Scriptures for us.
Finally we reached the village, the man was going to keep walking, but we
begged him to stay the night with us since it was getting so late.
He agreed and we sat down to eat.'

12. 'Now, what does this remind you of?' asked Cleopas.
'We weren't there of course but you disciples had told us about it.
The man took the bread and he blessed it.
He broke the bread and gave it to us.
BOOM!
Our eyes were opened.
We knew who he was.
Jesus!
And then He disappeared!
And WOAH...
...here He is again!'
13. Everybody looked around and there was Jesus himself standing amongst them.
'Peace be with you,' He said.
But they were too startled and frightened to say a word.
They were thinking, 'We are seeing a ghost!'
Jesus said, 'Why are you frightened?
Why are your hearts filled with doubt?
Look at my hands.
Look at my feet.
You can see that it's really me.
Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies,
as you see that I do.
As He spoke He showed them His nail pierced hands and feet.
14. The disciples, Cleopas and their friends still stood there in disbelief,
but filled with joy and wonder.
Jesus asked them, 'Do you have anything to eat?'
They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he ate it as they watched.
Jesus talked to them some more.
'It was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on
the third day, and that a change of heart and lives and forgiveness of sins would be
preached in His name to all nations, starting at Jerusalem.
You are the witnesses of these things.'
The disciples, Cleopas and their friends realised they were going to be doing a lot more
walking to tell the whole world Jesus is alive!

Ministry to the Children:

Jesus is always with you, too. You might not see Him but He is there. Sometimes sadness or sorrow gets in the way and you can't see Jesus. Sometimes it's unbelief. You don't expect to see Him. Sometimes it's ignorance. You need to read your Bible and learn Memory Verses so God's Word gets inside your heart. Jesus will seek you out like He did the disciples in the story.

As He walks with you and you spend time with Him your eyes will be open. You will see who He is and what He has done for you. And then you can tell other kids. Jesus died on the Cross for the sin of the whole world. (*John 3:16*) Because Jesus had no sin, God raised Him from the dead. If you have faith in Jesus, if you believe that He died for your sins, that He was buried, that God raised Him from the dead and made Him Lord of heaven and earth, then you can be forgiven of every sin. You will live forever with God and His Son, Jesus!
(*Altar call*)

Communion: Remembering Jesus

Hold Communion for those children who have given their lives to Jesus and are old enough to 'examine themselves' (*1 Corinthians 11:28-29*).

Scripture References: Matthew 26:26-29
Mark 14:22-25
Luke 22:19; 22:20
1 Corinthians 11:24-26

Communion You Tube Song Suggestion:

- Risen (Shawna Edwards)

Memory Verse: Acts 4:33

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all.

Walk-a-thon Relay!

Write the words of the Memory Verse onto cards and make two of each word and the Bible reference.

Divide the children into two teams. Mark a start line where the teams line up. At the opposite end of the space pile up the cards in a jumbled order. On 'go' the first person in the team must WALK to the pile of words, pick one up, and WALK back to their team, then the following person is free to WALK to retrieve the next word and so on. When all the words have been retrieved, the team must assemble the verse in the correct order. The first to do so and read it aloud together wins. If any team member is caught doing anything other than WALKING they must return to the start. It's harder than you think!

Game: Camouflage Hide and Seek

The child who is 'It' chooses a spot in the play area to stand. Everyone else forms a circle around them. 'It' yells 'Camouflage!' and counts down from ten. Everyone else tries to hide as best they can in those ten seconds. Then 'It' must try and find as many children as they can but they cannot move from where they are standing. When a child is found, they're out. Once 'It' gives up, the hiders who weren't found form a circle again for another round. The game continues until only one person is left hiding. That child is the winner! Change 'It' and play again.

- Added challenge: hiders cannot hide in the same spot twice
- Lower the countdown with each round. 'It' starts at ten, then goes down to nine, eight, etc.

Craft: He Is Risen Cross Bookmark

You will need:

- Cross photocopied onto white card, one per child
- Decorations (stickers, sequins, flowers, jewels etc.)
- Felt pens
- Hole punch
- Ribbon (cut into lengths)

What to do:

- Children decorate the Cross
- Punch a hole in the top of the Cross
- Thread ribbon through

