



LAW, GRACE, AND WISDOM:
OUR FAITH, GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13–35

Road to Emmaus—Art Workshop
Road to Emmaus—Audiovisual Workshop
Road to Emmaus—Computer Workshop
Road to Emmaus—Drama/Storytelling Workshop
Road to Emmaus—Games and Puzzles Workshop
Road to Emmaus—Music and Worship Workshop
Road to Emmaus—Bonus: Cooking Workshop

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Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13–35

Leader to Leader

Audiovisual
Workshop



Biblical Background

It is a Sunday evening, and two disciples, deep in conversation about the strange events of the past week, are on a journey. A stranger happens upon them, and asks what they are discussing . . .

So begins this post-resurrection story that is found only in the gospel of Luke. It is a narrative that possesses all the literary elements of a good story—movement, emotion, suspense, and an exciting climax—set within the framework of what, at its outset, was expected to be a simple journey from one town to another.

The two disciples walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus, slowly and hopelessly, and talk about all that has happened in recent days. Most likely, they are still in shock over the tragic things that happened to a man they love, respected, and believed in. They encounter a fellow traveler, and the readers of the story are told what the disciples do not know. The traveler is Jesus himself. As they walk, Jesus teaches them the meaning of the Scriptures. They arrive at their destination and invite him to stay for dinner. He accepts their hospitality and then, as Luke explains: “When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him” (Luke 24:30–31). At this, Jesus disappears . . . before they have a chance to ask any questions or make any professions. But they turn to one another and acknowledge that they had a funny feeling, the kind you have when, in the presence of the familiar or the extraordinary, you sense that something bigger is going on. They say, “Were not our hearts burning within us . . . (v. 32)?” The rest of their words were not yet formulated because what they were experiencing was still beyond comprehension: Easter, resurrection, new life, and hope. But they felt it. They recognized it in the breaking of the bread, the very act Jesus told them to remember him by. They felt compelled to return to Jerusalem, in spite of the late hour, anxious and excited to share their experience with the other disciples.

This story teaches us about what it means to be disciples of the risen Christ. Word and Sacrament, hospitality and witness, revelation and remembrance are all important themes in this unit’s story and in the life of the Christian believer.

Theological Connections

Perhaps the most important thing the story of the “Road to Emmaus” teaches us is how it is we get to know the living Christ. What we learn from the story is that getting to know Christ involves both divine and human action.

Central to the story is the revelation of God present in both Word and Sacrament, the two critical elements of Christian worship. When the two disciples met Jesus on the road, they did not immediately recognize him. Only after he interpreted the Scriptures to them and shared a meal where he blessed and broke the bread did they recognize him. Like the Emmaus disciples, believers ever since have encountered, experienced, and recognized Jesus by reverently receiving Word and Sacrament.

Even with God’s revelatory acts, the disciples could have missed the opportunity to recognize Jesus. Had they not been open to hearing what Jesus had to say on the road, and had they not taken the initiative of extending an invitation to him to stay for dinner, Jesus could have gone on by with them none the wiser. Like Abraham and Sarah, rushing to welcome the strangers who turn out to be angels bringing the promise of Isaac’s birth, the two disciples learned the truth of Paul’s teaching, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it” (Hebrews 13:2).

We can never be sure where we will meet Christ. However, we can be sure that if we neglect to show hospitality to others, if we do not open ourselves to meeting Christ in unexpected people and places, we may miss an experience of the presence of God. When we do open ourselves to such experiences, we may find the experience so powerful that, like



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the two disciples, we are compelled to tell others about it. If others are to learn about God's revelatory acts, Christian believers must witness to their own experiences, as the two disciples on the road to Emmaus did.

Educational Emphases

A key part of our task in Christian education is to simply let children begin to learn what is in the Bible. The "Road to Emmaus" story is an interesting, engaging story about Jesus that children will enjoy hearing and learning. If the children, particularly the younger children, leave this unit with no more than an ability to tell this story in their own words, then it will have been time well spent. To learn that much means the children have learned something about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

If you want to go deeper, even with the younger children, a good place to start is with the hospitality of the two disciples and what they gained by their willingness to extend hospitality to a stranger. In working with the older children, you can also make the connection between how the two disciples experienced Jesus through Word and Sacrament and what we do in worship each week. If they've ever found themselves wondering why we do what we do in worship, this story gives them one answer—to get to know our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Take Note

In our day and age, when so much is made of "stranger danger," the biblically prominent theme of extending hospitality to strangers gives parents and Christian educators pause. Although it is important to confirm what children have learned from parents and teachers about never going anywhere with an adult they do not know, you can still include the theme of hospitality to strangers by highlighting the differences between what the Bible is talking about and what they have learned at school and at home.

For example, this can be an opportunity to teach children about some of the differences between the

society in which we live and what life was like before and during the time of Jesus. In a place and time where there were no restaurants or hotels, the only places travelers were able to eat and stay the night were in other people's homes, and people weren't always traveling in places where they knew other people and could rely on friends or family. The entire culture was dependent on the expectation that people would open their homes to strangers passing through who were in need of food or shelter.

Note: Even in biblical times, this would have been the responsibility of the adults in the household and not the children.

Although that is not the case for the society in which we live, we can still learn from this story and from others in the Bible that it is important to welcome people who are different from us. Even though that does *not* mean that a child should ever go somewhere alone with an adult he or she does not know, it does mean that the children should be friendly to a new student in their class at school, or stick up for a child who is picked on by others in the class. The presence of Christ may be found in that person, just as we experience Christ in our best friend or loved one. May you and the children you teach get to know Christ in new and exciting ways as you embark on this journey of the road to Emmaus.

Welcoming All Children

We encourage all leaders to consider how each unit and each workshop might affect the learning of children with special needs in your churches. Because these issues vary widely from church to church and from child to child, rather than offering general guidelines here that may or may not address your concerns, we encourage you to seek assistance from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Disability Consultants. Go to www.pcusa.org/phewa/consult.htm for contact information for consultants in areas of hearing, mobility, vision, and developmental disabilities, who are available by phone or e-mail to assist you with any questions or concerns you might have.



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Suggested Supplemental Resources

Computer Software

Microsoft Windows “paint” program *Kid Pix Studio Deluxe, 3rd edition*, available from Sunday Software, www.sundaysoftware.com or 1-800-678-1948.

Discovery’s *Life of Christ* for older children, available from Sunday Software, www.sundaysoftware.com or 1-800-678-1948.

Books

Milton, Ralph. *The Family Story Bible*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.

Audiovisual

The Miracle Maker—The Story of Jesus by Family Home Entertainment. VHS tape or DVD, available from www.amazon.com. For all ages.

Fish Eyes: Emmaus Road/Inside the Fish (Tape 7, Episodes 13 and 14). VHS tape (Item #V984), available from www.gospeldirect.com or 1-800-467-7353. For older children.

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Main Idea

Two disciples walking on a road meet a stranger who teaches them Scripture. They share a meal together and realize that it was Jesus all along.

Something to Remember

Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures (Luke 24:27).

Question 28. How do we know that Jesus is Lord?

After he died and was raised from the dead, he appeared to his disciples, both women and men. He revealed himself to them as our living Lord and Savior. Through the Bible, he continues to reveal himself to us today.

—*Belonging to God: A First Catechism*

Objectives of the Workshop

The children will have the opportunity to:

- Retell the story of the road to Emmaus.
- Begin to see ways to welcome others and understand hospitality.
- Identify ways to recognize the living Christ in our lives today.

Things to Prepare

- Create a ticket for each child using “Ticket Pattern” (Resource 1, page 7). (Assemble)
- Display United States map (*optional*: world map). (Assemble)
- Obtain two VHS tapes: *The Miracle Maker—The Story of Jesus* (available from www.amazon.com) and *Fish Eyes: Emmaus Road Trip/Inside the Fish* (available from www.gospeldirect.com or 1-800-467-7353). (Bible Study)
- Preview the VHS tape. *The Miracle Maker* and Episode 13 of the VHS tape *Fish Eyes: Emmaus Road Trip/Inside the Fish*. (Bible Study)
- Cue *The Miracle Maker* to the place where the women visit the tomb. This will set up the resurrection story. Determine where you will end the tape: after the Emmaus story or after the Thomas story. This video segment is approximately seven to eight minutes in length. *Fish Eyes: Emmaus Road Trip/Inside the Fish*, Episode 13, is approximately fifteen minutes in length. (Bible Study)

- Fold card stock in half for welcome cards. (Claim)
- Print and/or photocopy “Story Sheet for Road to Emmaus” (Resource 3, page 9) for each child. (Claim)
- Obtain a three-prong folder for each child. (Claim)

You Will Need

Assemble

- Tickets prepared from “Ticket Pattern” (Resource 1, page 7) (one for each child)
- Felt-tipped markers or crayons
- United States map
- World map (*optional*)
- Tape or pushpins
- Self-adhesive tabs

Bible Study

- Bible
- VHS tape *The Miracle Maker* (younger children)
- VHS tape *Fish Eyes: Emmaus Road Trip/Inside the Fish* (older children)
- VCR

Claim

- Easel pad
- White card stock
- Felt-tipped markers
- Three-prong folders for journals (Resource 2, page 8) (one for each child)
- Copies of “Story Sheet for Road to Emmaus” (Resource 3, page 9) (one for each child)
- Pencils
- Crayons or felt-tipped markers

Depart

- No materials needed



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Assemble: God Calls Us Together

Before the workshop, create a ticket for each child using “Ticket Pattern” (Resource 1, page 7).

Tickets

Greet the children as they arrive. Hand out the tickets and have the children decorate their tickets.

Welcoming

Before the workshop, display a map of the United States. If your group includes children who have traveled to or lived in other countries, use a world map. Invite the children to look at the map. Use self-adhesive tabs to mark places where they have visited or where friends or relatives live. Talk with the children about hospitality. How do people welcome people? How were the children welcomed by others in their travels? How do the children welcome people who visit their homes? Do they help clean house, make a welcome sign, or help prepare a special meal? Have a conversation about how they welcome strangers, friends, and family.

Opening Prayer

Say the following prayer: “God, you are our guide everywhere we go. Be with us always as we learn and grow. Help us to learn to welcome one another and to show your love in what we do and what we say. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.”

Bible Study: We Hear God’s Word

Before the workshop, review the videotapes. *The Miracle Maker* is recommended for all ages; the *Fish Eyes* tape is recommended for older children. Decide which tape you will show or if you will show both. Cue *The Miracle Maker* to the place where the women visit the tomb. This will set up the resurrection story. Determine where you will end the tape: after the Emmaus story or after the Thomas story.

What Happened on that Road?

Open your Bible to Luke 24:1–12. Read the resurrection story to set the stage for the next act. If this is not one of the first weeks of the rotation, ask the children what happened next. Have them retell the story to you. If this is one of the first weeks of the rotation and the Bible story is still new to the children, have the older children take turns reading verses 13–35 or read the verses to the younger children.

Show the segment of the video *The Miracle Maker* to the younger children. After the video, engage the children in a conversation about the video and the Bible story. Ask these questions:

- Who were the two friends traveling to Emmaus?
- What do you think they were feeling that day?
- How did they feel when the traveler joined them?
- What happened at mealtime?
- How did the video show their surprise? their faith?

Show the *Fish Eyes* video to older children. Ask the children to compare and contrast the video and the Bible story.

Claim: We Respond to God’s Word

Before the workshop, print and/or photocopy “Story Sheet for Road to Emmaus” (Resource 3, page 9) for each child. Obtain a three-prong folder for each child.

Welcome Cards

Welcoming others in Jesus’ name shows hospitality and demonstrates Jesus’ love to others. Sometimes when people visit a church, they don’t know anyone and may feel shy. How does your congregation welcome visitors? Help the children make welcome



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cards to give to visitors to welcome them to your church home.

Ask the children to brainstorm some ideas for phrases to write in a welcome card. Make a list of their ideas on the easel pad. The children can copy from this list onto their cards. Hand out white card stock and felt-tipped markers and direct the children to make welcome cards. When the children are finished making cards, gather the cards and give them to the ushers or greeters to distribute to visitors in the coming weeks.

Journaling

Give each child a copy of “Story Sheet for Road to Emmaus” (Resource 3, page 9). Have pencils and crayons or felt-tipped markers available. Remind the children that the two friends on the road to Emmaus met Jesus and recognized him only when they shared a meal and heard Scripture. Discuss with the children how they meet the living Christ today. Who tells them about Scripture and with whom do they share bread? Have the children respond to the question “Where do you see Jesus in your daily life?” by writing or drawing on the copies of “Story Sheet for Road to Emmaus” (Resource 3, page 9). Collect the story sheets and place them in the children’s journals after the workshop is over. (See “Journal Instructions” [Resource 2, page 8].) If you have visitors, give them their story sheets to take home.

Clean Up

Have the children help put away papers, markers, and any other materials that were used during the workshop.

Depart: God Sends Us into the World Walking with Jesus

Gather the children in a circle and talk for a few moments about how the two disciples in the story were surprised to discover that the person they traveled with was actually Jesus, the risen Christ. Imagine together about what that experience may have been like. In our lives we meet and know people who behave in Christlike ways. But this is a story of people who actually walked with Jesus. Can you imagine what it would be like to walk with Jesus? Ask the children to think about what they would ask Jesus. What would they talk about with him if they had the opportunity?

Pass-along Blessing

Conclude your time together by turning to the child on your right and saying, “(Name), Christ be with you.” Have them turn and say the same thing to the person on their right and so on around the circle until all have been blessed.

Evaluate

Were the children able to make the connection between recognizing Jesus through the hearing of Scripture (their hearts burned within) and sharing the meal and how they might recognize Christ today in their lives?



Workshop

Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13-35

Resource 1

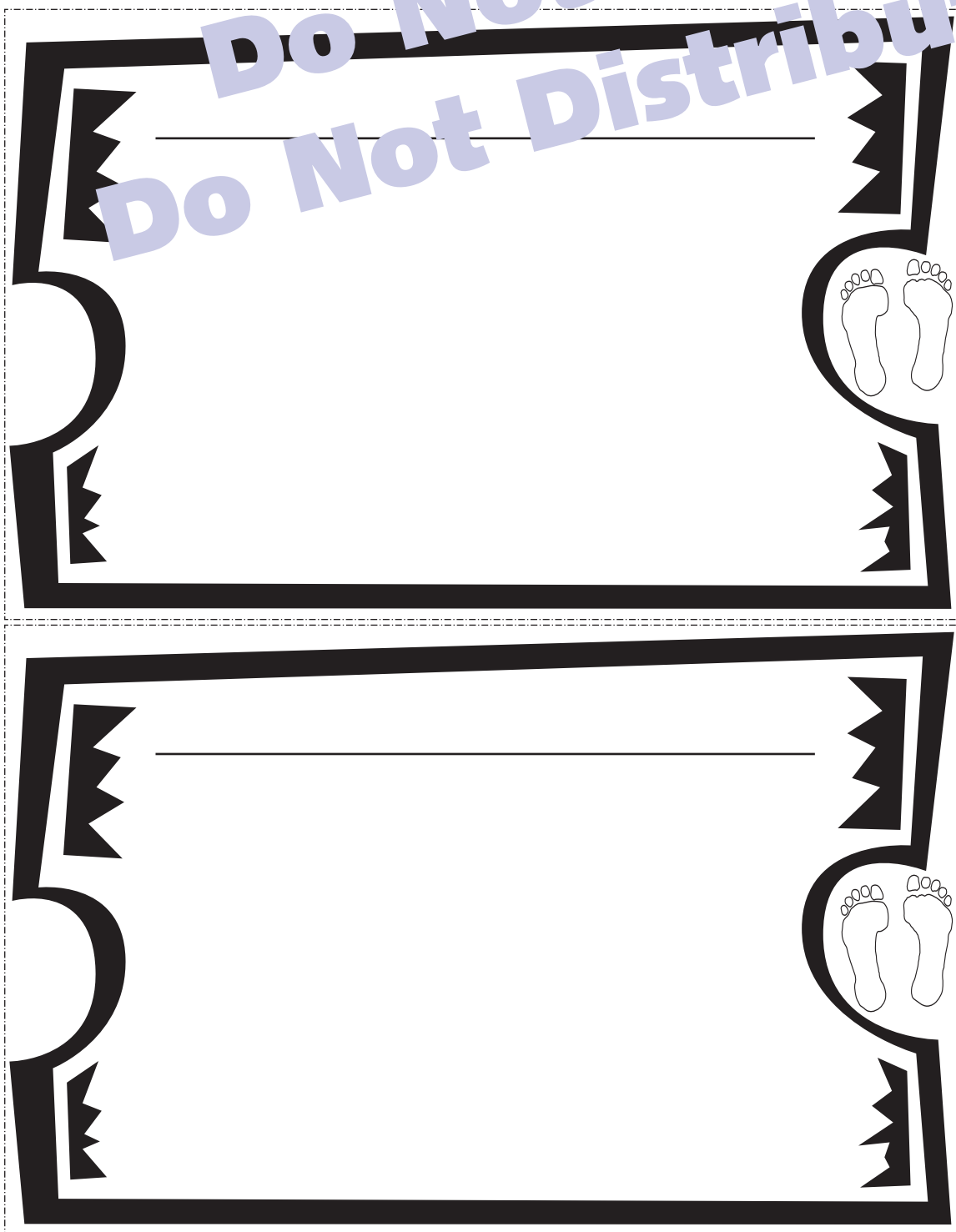
Audiovisual
Workshop



Ticket Pattern

Note to Leader: Print and/or photocopy this page to make one ticket for each child. Cut out the tickets and write the title of the video you have chosen. Leave space for children to illustrate their tickets. Print the Scripture reference for the unit (Luke 24:13-35) on the back of each ticket.

Materials: Scissors, felt-tipped markers or crayons



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Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:13–35

Resource 2

Audiovisual
Workshop



Journal Instructions

Note to Leader: Each unit used throughout the year has its own story sheet. Collect the story sheets to make a journal for each child. To make journals, you need a three-prong folder for each child. After the children have written or drawn their responses to the journal prompt on their copies of “Story Sheet for Road to Emmaus” (Resource 3, page 9), add the story sheets to the children’s folders. Keep the journals in the audiovisual area and give them to the children at the end of the year to review all the stories of the year. Give visitors to your workshop a story sheet to take home.

Materials: Three-prong folder for each child, three-hole paper punch

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Resource 3

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Story Sheet for Road to Emmaus

Note to Leader: Print and/or photocopy this page for each child.

Materials: Pencils, plus crayons or felt-tipped markers

Directions: Write your answer to the journal prompt below, or draw your answer on the back side.

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but

they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread (Luke 24:13-35).

Journal Prompt: Where do you see Jesus in your daily life?
