



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

Music and
Worship 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.

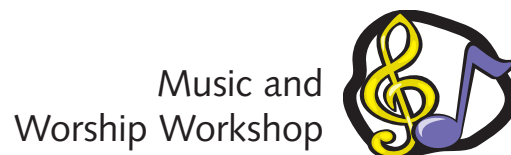
Welcoming All Children

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 Emmaus road appearance of Jesus.
- Learn to sing a round.
- Sing a prayer.
- Suggest something we do because Jesus lives in our hearts.

Things to Prepare

- Read “Singing Rounds with Children” (Resource 1, page 7). (Assemble)
- Recruit adult volunteers to help the children with a choral reading. (Bible Study)
- Recruit adult volunteers to help the children sing rounds. (Assemble)
- Print and/or photocopy “Bible Story Choral Reading” (Resource 3, page 9) for each older child and leader. (Bible Study)
- Make word charts or transparencies for the songs “Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread” and “Be Present at Our Table, Lord” (Resources 4 and 5, pages 10 and 11). (Claim)
- Print and/or photocopy “Come, O Jesus” and “Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread” (Resources 2 and 4, pages 8 and 10) for each child. (Depart)

You Will Need

Assemble

- “Come, O Jesus” (Resource 2, page 8)
- Two carpet squares or large pieces of construction paper

Bible Study

- Copy of “Bible Story Choral Reading” (Resource 3, page 9) for each older child and leader
- The Family Story Bible* by Ralph Milton (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997) (*younger children/beginning readers*)

Claim

- Word charts or transparencies for the songs “Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread” and “Be Present at Our Table, Lord” (Resources 4 and 5, pages 10 and 11)
- Overhead projector (*optional*)
- Screen (*optional*)
- Newsprint or chalkboard
- Felt-tipped marker or chalk
- Piano, autoharp, or other instrument to accompany singing (*optional*)

Depart

- Copy of “Come, O Jesus” (Resource 2, page 8) for each child
- Copy of “Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread” (Resource 4, page 10) for each child



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Assemble: God Calls Us Together

Before the workshop, read “Singing Rounds with Children” (Resource 1, page 7). Put two carpet squares or pieces of construction paper on the floor.

Singing in a Round

Greet the children and as they arrive ask them to go to a carpet square. As children continue to arrive, invite them to join whichever group is smaller, keeping the numbers even. Ask an adult volunteer to sit at each of the places.

Teach the children the words for “Come, O Jesus” (Resource 2, page 8) line by line: Invite the children to listen as you sing one phrase, and then have the whole group repeat it. Most children will be familiar with the tune, and any who are not will pick it up quickly. When everyone knows it and can sing it well in unison, sing it in a round, each group singing the whole song twice.

Opening Prayer

Sing “Come, O Jesus” in a round one more time as the opening prayer today.

Bible Study: We Hear God’s Word

Before the workshop, print and/or photocopy “Bible Story Choral Reading” (Resource 3, page 9) for each older child and leader.

Hear the Story

With younger children or beginning readers, read the story to them from *The Family Story Bible*, “On the Road to Emmaus,” pages 260–61.

With older children, divide the class into three groups: narrators, disciples, and Jesus. Distribute copies of “Bible Story Choral Reading” (Resource 3, page 8). Each group should have a leader, or “shepherds,” reading with them. Ask the narrator group to practice the name of the disciple Cleopas (Klay’-oh-puhs). Read the story aloud as a choral reading. When you are finished, collect the copies of “Bible Story Choral Reading” for future use.

Claim: We Respond to God’s Word

Before the workshop, prepare word charts or transparencies for the songs “Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread” and “Be Present at Our Table, Lord” (Resources 4 and 5, pages 10 and 11).

Blessings in Song

Put the transparency of the hymn or the word chart for “Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread” (Resource 4, page 10) before the children. Read the words together and ask how this hymn fits our story today. Accept all answers and affirm those who volunteer. Play or sing the tune and ask the children if it is familiar to them. Sing it through several times together.

Ask the children to think about the last phrase of the hymn, “. . . and spread Thy table in our heart.” Ask the children: What does it mean when we ask Jesus to do that? If Jesus’ table is in our heart, how do we act? Write the children’s responses on newsprint or a chalkboard. Ask them to remember what the disciples did because Jesus had been with them. Obvious answers will be that they learned about the Scripture, that they invited Jesus to dinner, and that they went back to the other disciples to witness to what they had experienced. Encourage the children to think for themselves about what it means to invite Jesus into our hearts.

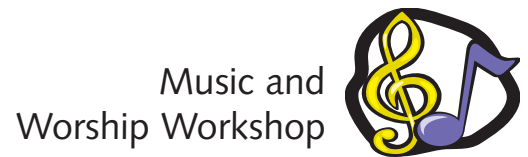
Ask the children to return to the groups they sang with at the beginning of the session. Sing “Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread” as a round. The song sheet (Resource 4, page 10) marks the entrance of each group. Ask each group to sing twice through the hymn and to hold the last note, taking quick breaths as they need to, until everyone is on that note and you signal a time to end together.

Suggest that this hymn would be a beautiful table blessing for the children to teach their families to sing at their family meal table. If your congregation uses *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, tell the children that they can look at hymn number 505 to show their families what they learned.



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If time permits, display the words and sing “Be Present at Our Table, Lord” (Resource 5, page 11). Tell the children that this is another beautiful table blessing that is sung to a famous tune called “Old 100th.” Your congregation may use this tune to sing the Doxology in worship.

Clean Up

Have the children help with picking up items they used in the workshop and returning the room to the way it needs to be left.

Depart: God Sends Us into the World

Before the workshop, print and/or photocopy “Come, O Jesus” and “Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread” (Resources 2 and 4, pages 8 and 10) for each child.

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.

Dismiss the children and give them copies of “Come, O Jesus” and “Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread” (Resources 2 and 4, pages 8 and 10) to take home and use as table blessings with their families.

Evaluate

Singing in rounds and participating in choral readings can help children feel like they are part of a team, working together toward a common goal. Did some of the children today appear to be alone in the group? How might you draw solitary children in so they can participate more fully? Ask the adult leaders for the next groups to rotate to your workshop if there are any children who might need some special attention. Could those children be invited to post the word charts or put the transparencies on the overhead?

How did you feel the singing in rounds went? Did the group need more unison practice before dividing?



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Resource 1

Music and
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Singing Rounds with Children

Singing rounds is a wonderful way to encourage children to become good listeners when they sing, an essential skill for beautiful unison singing and for beginning to sing simple harmonies. In their book titled *Singing Canons, Songs and Blessings*, Helen and John Kemp provide an excellent definition of a round:

“A round is a composition in which all the voices sing exactly the same music, with the beginning voice singing a complete musical phrase before the entrance of the second voice and succeeding voices. All parts upon reaching the end of the melody return to the beginning and repeat the entire melody again. The round derives its name from this repeated (circular) motion.”¹

The first and most important step is to learn the song well in unison, everyone singing together before you introduce the round parts. Today’s opening prayer song, “Come, O Jesus,” is sung to the tune of the old nursery song “Are You Sleeping,” or “Frère Jacques.” See Resource 2, page 8.

In her book *Teaching the Elementary School Chorus*, Linda Swears says, “Before you begin having children sing rounds in parts, be sure they can sing the melody without the piano or help from you. Be sure children are divided into groups with about an equal number of good, independent singers.

“When the children are ready to sing the round, remind them to sing lightly and to be sure to ‘feel the steady beat.’ Some children may be tempted to cover their ears so they cannot hear the other part. Don’t let this habit get started. Remind the children that good singing means being able to sing your part while hearing another. This is a skill all good singers must learn.”²

There are two opportunities for singing in rounds in this workshop. The music provided shows the entrances for successive voices, marked with the group number encircled like this: ① Be sure the children know which group number they are and that you will point to their group when it is time for them to begin. If the other group is preceding them in singing, urge them to listen for the phrase that group will sing right before their group begins.

If a group “messes up” and gets off the beat or misses an entrance, simply stop everyone and good-naturedly begin again, remembering that practice is the best teacher! Singing rounds is a lot of fun, and children will experience the pleasure of hearing the beautiful harmonies they are singing.

1. Helen and John Kemp, *Canons, Songs and Blessings: A Kemp Family Collection* (Garland, TX: Choristers Guild, 1990).
2. Linda Swears, *Teaching the Elementary School Chorus* (West Nyack, NY: Parker Publishing, 1984).



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Resource 2

Music and
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Come, O Jesus

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

Come, O Jesus

sung to the tune of Frère Jacques

Martha Bess DeWitt

Traditional folk melody

1 F C7 F C7 F

Come, O Je - sus, Come, O Je - sus,

2 C7 F C7 F C7 F

Be our guest. Be our guest. Come, we make you wel - come.

C7 F C7 F C7 F

Come, we make you wel - come. Be our guest. Be our guest.

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Resource 3

Music and
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Bible Story Choral Reading

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

Luke 24:13–35

From the New Revised Standard Version

- Narrator:** 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,
- Jesus:** “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?”
- Narrator:** They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him,
- Disciples:** “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?”
- Narrator:** He asked them,
- Jesus:** “What things?”
- Narrator:** They replied,
- Disciples:** “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.”
- Narrator:** Then he said to them,
- Jesus:** “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?”
- Narrator:** 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,
- Disciples:** “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.”
- Narrator:** 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,
- Disciples:** “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”
- Narrator:** That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying,
- Disciples:** “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”
- Narrator:** Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

Note to Leader: Print and/or photocopy this page for each child. Make a word chart or transparency of this song.

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

ST. FLAVIAN CM

James Montgomery, 1825

Day's Psalter, 1562

1

2

Be known to us in break - ing bread, But do not then de - part;

Sav - ior, a - bide with us, and spread Thy ta - ble in our heart.



Be Present at Our Table, Lord

Note to Leader: Make a word chart or transparency of this song.

Be Present at Our Table, Lord

John Cennick, 1718-1755

Old 100th LM

Genevan Psalter, 1551

Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510 c. -1561

*F F C Dm Am Dm C F F F C Dm B \flat F C

Be pre-sent at our ta - ble, Lord; Be here and ev - ery - where a - dored;

F C F C F B \flat C7 F Am Dm Gm F C F B \flat F

Thy crea-tures bless, and grant that we May feast in fel-low - ship with thee. A-men.

*Autoharp markings are for key of F. Music arrangement from *They Sang a New Song*, by Ruth McKay. Copyright © 1959 by Abingdon Press. Administered by The Copyright Company, Nashville, TN. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.