

Bible Lesson

42. Jesus Appears to his Disciples

Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20



When they saw Jesus, they worshipped; but some doubted.

Matthew 28:17

Jesus Appears to his Disciples

The disciples hid in a room together. The doors were locked tight. They were praying and crying. When the women told the disciples, "Jesus is alive!" they didn't believe. To them, their words sounded silly.

Two followers walked along a road going to a village. Their hearts were heavy. Each step was hard to take.

Jesus came to them, but they did not know who he was. He told them, "The Old Testament tells the story of the Messiah. He had to die and then come back to life."

Their eyes were opened. It was Jesus! But then, he disappeared. "Our hearts were burning within us when he was talking!" they said.

They told the others, "It is true. The Lord has risen!" Just then, Jesus stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

"It's a ghost!" they screamed.

"No, it's me," Jesus said. "See I have flesh and bones. Why didn't you believe?"

The men touched his hands and feet. Then they believed that Jesus was the Messiah. Amazed and full of joy, they worshipped him.

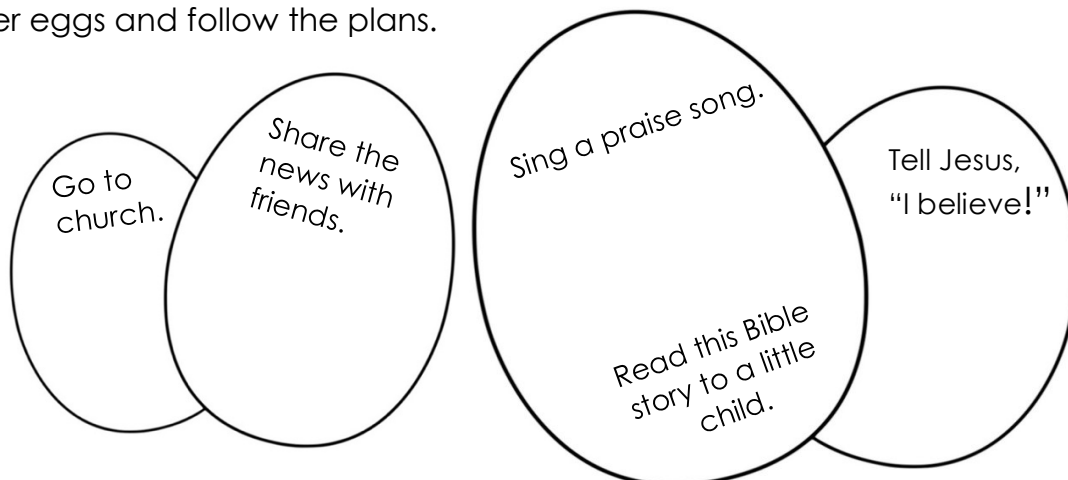
Questions

1. How did the men react when the women told the news of Jesus' resurrection?
2. How did they react, even after they saw him alive?
3. It has been said, "The resurrection changes everything." Why?
4. During Easter, many people celebrate spring with candy and eggs. How do Christians celebrate?

Dear Jesus,

The amazing news of your resurrection changed the history of the world. Since you came back to life, millions of people in almost two hundred of countries believe. I believe too. Amen

The reason we have Easter is to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Decorate the Easter eggs and follow the plans.



Show students where the story is in the Bible. Use the Bible references above the illustration.

Before you read:

Activate Prior Knowledge

- a) Have you ever heard of someone coming back from the dead?
- b) If a dead person appeared to you, what would you think?
- c) If you could touch Jesus, would you believe? Why?

After you read:

Is he a g-g-g-GHOST?

Use the illustrated first page. Have the kids draw dialogue bubbles around Jesus. Inside, each bubble, they can write a line from Luke 24:36-39. Talk about doubts the disciples had then and doubts disciples today may have. What doubts do you still have?

Help me Out with my Doubt

Even with the risen Jesus standing in front of them, some disciples doubted (Matthew 28:16-17). A careful word study will reveal that the word "doubted" is best translated into "hesitated." However, even those doubters (those who hesitated) went on to become missionaries. All of them were persecuted and most died for their faith in Christ. So, don't let doubt get you down. Don't get discouraged if someone else has some doubts or hesitations. In Matthew 9:24, a father had the simple request of Jesus, "Lord, help my unbelief." See in the story how faith brings joy. Use washable markers. Write this group prayer on your palms, a few words at time. Say the prayer as you go around a circle, first slowly and then faster: Lord, if I doubt, help me out. Turn my grief into belief. Help me worship, go, and share. Lord, please hear my honest prayer. Amen."

Toss Away the Bad Feelings

Have the kids go through these passages and write down the bad feelings on the board. Identify some emotions at the crucifixion and even after the resurrection before they understood that Jesus really had risen. From (NIV): Matthew 27: terrified, fear. Mark 16: mourning, weeping, doubt, trembling, bewildered, afraid. Luke 23-24: wailing, fright, hopes crushed, startled, troubled, doubting, lack of faith. John 20: crying, weeping. Then, write one bad feeling each on a piece of paper and lay it on the floor. It will look like a sad mess, just how the disciples felt. Now on the board write the great feelings when they understood and believed that Jesus did rise: Matthew 28: joy, worship. Luke 24: joy, amazement, open minds, great joy, praising God. John 20: overjoyed. Using a pen, write these feelings onto Styrofoam plates. The kids can toss the plates until they land on and cover the bad feelings.

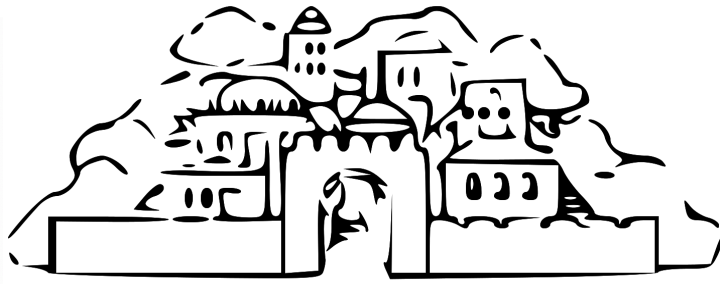
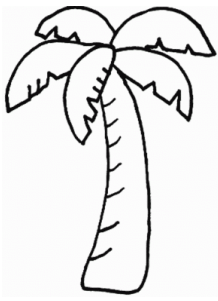
Burning Hearts, Running Feet (Part 1)

Read Luke 23:13-35. When Jesus opened the Scriptures to the two men, their hearts were “burning within” them. Jesus explained how prophecies told in the Old Testament, hundreds of years earlier, were fulfilled by him. The disciples were so excited, they ran seven miles back to Jerusalem to share the news, most likely in the dark! Play this game to learn some possible prophecies.

To start: get a small object as a marker (a tiny toy or a pebble). Photocopy pages 5-7 onto card stock. Tape together the two sides of the game board. Cut the cards. On the back side of each Prophecy card, write a large P. On the back side of each Fulfilled card, write an F. Shuffle and lay in two stacks. To play: the child takes the top card from the F and P stack. Turn them over. Do they match (are they both marked A, for example)? If they do, set the pair aside; that is a point. That player goes through the stack to see how many pairs they make. That is the amount of steps you can take. Read the prophecy and fulfillment aloud before taking your step. Shuffle each stack for the next child to go through the full stacks. Start in Jerusalem and follow the footsteps to Emmaus and then back to Jerusalem. Whoever gets there first wins. Look up the verses.

<p>A. Prophecy The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.</p> <p>Micah 5:2</p>	<p>B. Prophecy The Messiah would make blind people see.</p> <p>Isaiah 29:18</p>	<p>C. Prophecy The Messiah would enter Jerusalem on a donkey.</p> <p>Zechariah 9:9</p>
<p>A. Fulfilled Jesus was born in Bethlehem.</p> <p>Luke 2:4-7</p>	<p>B. Fulfilled Jesus made blind people see.</p> <p>Matthew 9:29</p>	<p>C. Fulfilled Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey.</p> <p>Luke 19:35</p>
<p>D. Prophecy The Messiah would be betrayed with 30 pieces of silver.</p> <p>Zechariah 11:12</p>	<p>E. Prophecy The Messiah would die with criminals but be buried with the rich.</p> <p>Isaiah 53:9</p>	<p>F. Prophecy The Messiah would be pierced and crushed for our sins.</p> <p>Isaiah 53:5</p>
<p>D. Fulfilled Judas was paid 30 pieces of silver to betray Jesus.</p> <p>Matthew 26:14-16</p>	<p>E. Fulfilled Two criminals were crucified with Jesus. He was put into the tomb of a rich man.</p> <p>Luke 23:33 Matthew 27:57-58</p>	<p>F. Fulfilled The soldiers pierced the side of Jesus after he died on the cross.</p> <p>John 19:34 Matthew 26:28</p>

Burning Hearts, Running Feet (Part 2)

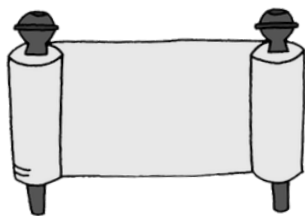


Jump two spaces.



Triple your points.

Prophecy



Jump one place past the leader.

Burning Hearts, Running Feet (Part 3)



Go forward four spaces.



Go forward two spaces.



Go backward two spaces.

Fulfilled

