



Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

April 18- 3rd grade- 5th grade

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 24, John 20

KEY PASSAGE: 2 Corinthians 5:17

BOTTOM LINE: The Holy Spirit leads me to overcome my doubts and depend on God.

CHRIST CONNECTION: For 40 days, Jesus showed himself to more than 500 people and proved that He is alive. Jesus is still alive today. We have not seen Jesus, but if we believe in Him, we will be blessed. He sends out believers to tell others about Him and gives us power through the Holy Spirit.

Context

The disciples were devastated that Jesus had died. They believed that Jesus was the Messiah, but they had abandoned Him and Jesus was killed. How could He save anyone if He was dead? But now some people were reporting that Jesus was alive! Was it true?

The disciples were talking about these things when Jesus stood among them. "Peace to you!" He said. Imagine how Jesus' words might have calmed the disciples' anxious hearts. Their Lord, whom they had deserted, didn't show up to scold them for their failures or shame them for their lack of faith. He spoke peace to them.

Thomas, who was not with the disciples when Jesus came, had a hard time believing. Thomas wanted physical proof. A week later, Jesus showed Thomas His hands and His side. Thomas immediately believed, and Jesus said, "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." (John 20:29)

With His resurrection, Jesus' mission was accomplished, but the disciples' work was just beginning. Jesus gave His followers a job to do: "As the Father has sent me, I also send you" (John 20:21). This verse contains the Gospels of John's version of the Great Commission.

Jesus, the One sent from the Father, sent the disciples to be His messengers and representatives. Jesus equipped the disciples with the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel- the good news of what Jesus has done- to the world.

Emphasize to kids that Jesus is alive today. We haven't seen Him for ourselves, but we believe by faith. He sends out all believers to tell others about Him, and He gives us power through the Holy Spirit.

TAKEAWAYS

- Jesus appeared to His closest friends so that they would understand all that had happened when He was arrested, crucified, buried, and raised again.
- He had taught them about His death and resurrection many times, but they didn't get it.
- Jesus showed his disciples that He was alive so that they would believe and follow Him.
- Even when Thomas doubted that Jesus was alive, Jesus came to him so that he would stop doubting and believe.

- **Bottom Line:** The Holy Spirit leads us to overcome our doubts and depend on God.

Small Group Prayer: “Father God, thank you for each of the kids in our circle today. God as we learn about you guide our conversations and help each kid to see you in a better way today. Thank you for Jesus and the promise to rescue us. We love you and want to worship you with our whole lives. In Jesus name, Amen.”

Social Activity: I Spy Activity Page or What Can You Build

What You Need: Week 1 I Spy Activity page (1 per kid), clothes pins, popsicles sticks, other miscellaneous building supplies, pencils, crayons

What You Do:

Give each kid an I spy activity page to complete as others arrive. They can circle or color in the pictures as they find the objects. See who can complete the page fastest.

OR

Using clothes pins, popsicle sticks and other building supplies kids will work together to build the tallest structure, the widest structure, the structure with the most peaks, etc. Encourage kids to use their creativity and work together with everyone to build a unique structure.

What You Say: As kids are coming in, set up the game and ask kids to join you as you play the game. Games are a great way for kids to engage with each other and you as you get to know each other. Use this time to ask them questions about their week and any other important follow up questions to things you have talked about in the past.

Play a Worship Song or 2 from your Worship DVD/Roku
Play the Large Group teaching DVD/Roku

Application Activity: Jesus Truths

What You Need Jesus Truths printable (1 per kid), Bibles

What You Do:

- Form small groups of kids to look up 2- 3 scriptures from the Jesus Truths printable. Give each group a Bible to use and the printable for each kid.
- Give each group several minutes to look up the scripture and read it to each other.
- Ask kids to gather around to share some of the things they read about. Try to get them to paraphrase what they read. You might need to read it with them and then help them work out the words so they can paraphrase it with you.
- Which one of these references is most encouraging to you today? As a leader, is there a time where one of these meant more to you then than it does today? Why? Share with the kids how and why this has changed. Encourage them by reminding them as they grow in their relationships with Jesus, there will likely be things that encourage them at different times. Just like when they were little and wanted things to help them calm down so they can sleep.

What You Say “Any time you begin to doubt what you’ve learned about Jesus, it’s helpful to have a good reference to remind yourself what is true- not just because someone told you, but because it is written in the Bible. Our feelings and emotions might fool us and cause us to doubt, but when we rely on the truth of God’s Word, we will stand in our beliefs. God never changes!

Key Passage Activity:

As you read the key passage together, encourage kids to help put the correct words in the blank together as you say each of the highlighted words while reading...

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:
The old has gone, the new is here! **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Why are these words important? These words show us the focus of this passage in the Bible. Therefore = transition, pay attention now , anyone= everyone has the chance to believe , in= joined to Him by faith in Him as Savior , creation= reborn and renewed by the Holy Spirit , old= the previous moral and spiritual condition , here=because spiritual awakening brings a new life

Discussion Questions:

- **Why did Thomas doubt that Jesus was alive when the other disciples believed?** Help kids recognize that Thomas was not with the disciples the first time Jesus appeared to them as a group. He didn't get to see Jesus, so He didn't believe. (Heb 11:1)
- **How are we blessed by believing in Jesus without seeing Him?** Lead kids to recall that when we believe in Jesus, we have forgiveness and eternal life. We will have peace and power through Him. (Mark 11:23)
- **What can we do when we doubt what is true?** Assure kids that when they have questions about the Bible, Jesus or their faith, it's OK to ask them. Encourage kids to talk with one of their leaders to help answer any questions. Remind them they can pray, asking God to speak to them through His Word and His Spirit to clear away their doubts. (Romans 10:17)