

IT'S ALL ABOUT HIM!

Easter (Resurrection Day) Lesson: The risen Jesus talks with two of His disciples on the Emmaus Road.

Scripture: Luke 24:13-29, Mark 16:12-13

Lesson Aim:

At the conclusion of this lesson, I want my students to understand that the whole Bible, both Old & New Testaments, is ultimately about Jesus, & that it all centers around His suffering, death, & resurrection. The whole Bible teaches that Jesus would die for us and rise again! Understanding this, I want my students to be motivated to make Him the centerpiece of their lives as well.

Preparing Visual Aids & Student Participation:

- Visualize the memory verse by printing it on posterboard, adding a picture of Jesus and of the Bible if such are available.
- Visualize the songs on posterboard if needed to help your students sing, or if these are songs you may use frequently in your ministry.
- For student participation, a visual is needed of verses 25 and 26, divided up phrase by phrase. Flashcard visuals are also needed saying THE BOOKS OF MOSES, another saying THE PSALMS and another saying THE PROPHETS. Each of these flashcards should have a picture of Jesus on it, but the pictures should be covered by paper taped on one side, so that the paper can be folded back revealing the picture.
- Be sure to go through all the ideas for student participation. Practice the songs and rhythmic repetitions so that you can do them easily & with enthusiasm. Practice the skits.
- Select three readers who can read fluently and with expression. If possible, give them the Scripture portion (Luke 24:32) they are to read ahead of time so they can practice it.

Memory Portion: Luke 24:27

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Songs:

Make the Book live to Me, O Lord

It's All About Jesus (to the tune of "Let's talk about Jesus")

(This song is best used during and at the conclusion of the lesson rather than before the introduction.)

It's all about Jesus
From Genesis to Revelation
It told all about Him
So long before He came.

It's all about Jesus
From Genesis to Revelation
It's all about Jesus
It's all about Him!

Beginning the Lesson (Introduction):

Have you ever read a book or listened to someone tell a story or watched a film, or listened to a sermon and then asked yourself, "What was it all about?" Usually a book or a film, a story or a sermon has a main point to it. It has a theme. It may mention many things, but it is really all about one BIG thing.

Have you ever asked yourself what the Bible is all about? You don't have to wonder any more, because Jesus Himself told us what it is about. Listen carefully to today's lesson, and you will find out.

Transition to the Bible Lesson: It happened after Jesus had risen from the dead. Some of the women who followed Him had seen that the tomb was empty, and an angel had told them He had risen from the dead. Peter and another disciple had seen the empty tomb, too, but most of His disciples did not yet believe He had risen.

Main Points to Emphasize, with Suggested Student Participation:

1. Two disciples, walking to Emmaus, were discussing Jesus' arrest and crucifixion (Luke 24:13-14).

Student participation—First, let all the students pretend their hand is Jerusalem & their shoulder is Emmaus, then slowly "walk" up their arm with two fingers of their other hand, pretending they are walking along with the two disciples. They are walking very slowly, because they are very sad about Jesus' death. Stop at the elbow.

Then, for older groups, ask two students to volunteer to act out how they might have been talking if they had been those two disciples.

2. As they walked, Jesus Himself joined them & asked them why they were sad, but they did not recognize Him (24:15-16).

Student participation—*Let the children “walk” their fingers up their arm again, beginning at the elbow. This time, let them add the thumb to show that Jesus was walking along with them.*

For older groups, let the two students continue to walk, discussing their sadness at what happened to Jesus & their hopes that He would be the Messiah, while Jesus joins them and walks along with them, listening.

3. Thinking the one who joined them must be from out of town, the disciple called Cleopas told of their hopes for Jesus (24:17-21).

Student Participation: *Rhythmic repetition by all students: (In a sad tone) “We were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel.”*

4. Cleopas told how they were confused by the women’s report of the empty tomb (24:22-24).

Student Participation: *Students turned to one another, acting bewildered, saying, “The women said He was alive.”*

5. Jesus explained to them how all the Old Testament told about Him, predicting His suffering, death, & resurrection (24:25-27).

Student Participation: *Rhythmic repetition of Jesus’ words in verses 25 & 26: “O foolish ones/ and slow of heart/ to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! / Ought not the Christ /to have suffered these things/ and to enter into His glory?” (Encourage older students to read it as everyone recites). Prepare a visual from which everyone can read so that everyone will be saying exactly the same words.*

6. Jesus accepts their offer to stay with them for the night (24:28-29).

Student Participation: *The whole group motions as if they want Jesus to come and stay with them.*

7. As He sat eating with them, He took bread & blessed it as He had the night of the last Passover He had eaten with them. Immediately their eyes were opened & they knew Him (24:30-31a), but then He vanished from their sight.

Student Participation: *Let three student volunteers come forward and act out this portion of the account. Jesus sits in the middle with a disciple on either side of Him. He takes bread and begins to bless it. Suddenly the two disciples recognize that It is Jesus. While they are acting surprised and excited, they look away briefly. The student acting Jesus' part gets up and goes out (our approximation of His disappearing.)*

8. The disciples understood what Jesus was teaching Him on their walk together—that the whole Bible was all about Him (24:32).

Student Participation: Choose three good readers to read this verse in dramatic fashion. One takes the part of the narrator, reading the first part of the verse (ending with 'one another'). The following tells what they said to one another, so the other two students take turns saying it to one another.

9. They turned around immediately & went back to Jerusalem, telling the other disciples that Jesus had risen & that they had seen & talked with Him (24:33-35).

Student Participation: *The whole group pretends that they are those disciples who have just learned for sure that Jesus is really alive. Run in place back to Jerusalem, whooping & hollering all the way. Tell the group they have now arrived at Jerusalem, so they should stop. Then they all shout together, "The Lord has risen indeed!" (Demonstrate a lot of hoopla and the students will follow.*

10. While they were speaking, Jesus came & stood in the midst of them, showing that He was alive & was not a ghost. He ate in front of them. (24:36-43).

Student Participation: *Appoint one student to act the part of the risen Jesus. He steps forward saying, "Peace be unto you." The other students act afraid because they think he must be a ghost.*

"Jesus" reads the words of vs. 38b & 39 and shows them his hands and feet. The other

students all act amazed.

“Jesus” asks if they have any food there. Two other students pretend to give him a piece of fish and a piece of honeycomb. Jesus took it and ate in their presence.

11. He opened their understanding to know that it was predicted in the Scriptures that He must suffer, die, & be raised to life the third day (24:44-46). He had told them this while He was with them before, but they did not understand it.

Student Participation: Verse 44 is our memory verse for the day, so review it at this point. One way to teach it with student participation is to divide the verse into 7 phrases as below, having a different group of students say each phrase:

Then He said to them,

“These are the words which I spoke to you

while I was still with you,

that all things must be fulfilled

which were written in the Law of Moses

and the Prophets and the Psalms

concerning Me.”

(All students together: Luke 24:44)

It is also possible to put the verse to a lively tune and sing it. ECM recommends using both methods—first the group recitation phrase by phrase and second singing it as a song.

More student participation:

The Jewish people divided the Old Testament into three parts. As you say each part, give a student a large flashcard with that part on it. (Each flashcard has a picture of Jesus that is covered with a piece of paper). The three parts were the Books of Moses (those were the first five books of our Bible—Genesis through Deuteronomy), The Psalms, and the Prophets. Together these three parts made up the whole thing—the Old Testament.

What did Jesus say the Books of Moses talked about? Yes, they talked about Him. (Ask a student to turn back the paper, exposing the picture of Jesus.)

What did the Psalms talk about? They also talked about Him. (Ask a student to turn back the paper on the Psalms card, exposing the picture of Jesus.) What did the prophets talk about? They also talked about Him. (Ask another student to turn back the paper on the prophets card.) The whole Old Testament talked about Him!

Conclusion: Again sing the song "It's all about Jesus"

Application to help the saved student apply this to life:

Jesus is the centerpiece of the Bible. From beginning to end, the Bible tells about His coming, His death, and His resurrection. In God's mind, Jesus is the centerpiece of human history.

Is He the centerpiece in your life? How important is Jesus to you? If He's been pushed to the side, why not tell Him today that you want Him to take the central place in your life? (Teacher allow a time of prayer with this in mind.)

Invitation to call those who are not yet saved to come to Christ:

Maybe you are not even sure if Jesus is your Savior. Yet from the beginning of human history, God planned and promised to send Him, so that you could be saved from your sin. If you are ready today to say "yes" to Jesus, just call on Him in prayer. Tell Him you want Him to be your Savior forever. Ask Him to come into your life. (Sunday school teacher, indicate a place where children can meet you so that you can pray with them to invite Christ into their life.) (If you are teaching in a public school, describe how to pray to receive Christ and invite anyone who makes that decision to write their name and the words "I took Jesus" on a piece of paper and slip it to you quietly next week or any time.

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