

Focus: Recognizing Jesus

Materials:

Prayer Altar: Cross, Candle, Chasuble on stand (priest's vestment) and Altar Cloth
CD: Easter Medley-Cycle A
Gospel: Children's Everyday Bible
Meal props
Our Father poster

Gathering (children find/sit on a carpet square)

Say: Good Morning everyone, my name is _____. Last week we talked about last week we learned to spread the peace of Jesus to others. Today we are going to talk about when Jesus surprised 2 other followers on the Road to Emmaus!

Opening Prayer

Together we make the Sign of the Cross (do in reverse so children can mirror).

Say: Now let's put our hands together and bow our heads.

Let us pray.

We thank you, God, for your Son, Jesus.

Help us to see the risen Jesus in others and in the world.

In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

Song/Movement

Come Christians, Join to Sing, track: 1, from EASTER CD CYCLE A

Play music, encourage children to stretch or move to the music (clapping, stamp feet march in place to the beat), turn to each other and shake hands, saying hello, etc.

Come, Christians, join to sing
Alleluia! Amen!
Loud praise to Christ our King;
Alleluia! Amen!
Let all, with heart and voice,
Before His throne rejoice;
Praise is His gracious choice:
Alleluia! Amen!
Praise yet our Christ again,

Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain;
Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore
His goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore,
Alleluia! Amen!
Alleluia! Amen!
Alleluia! Amen!

Memory Verse

Say: Now let's take a moment together to learn a verse from the bible.

Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Have the children repeat the verse after you a couple of times.

Say: In today's story, Jesus appears to 2 of his followers, but they don't realize it is Jesus with them. Their friend Jesus had died so there was no way it could be him. Jesus walks with them for a long time and they invite Jesus to eat with them. Then Jesus breaks the loaf of bread, they see who it is for the first time. They know that Jesus is risen and something very special has happened.

Gospel Story

Say: *Today we are reading from the Gospel of Luke.*

Have children make sign of the cross on their forehead, mouth and heart saying. *“Lord, open my mind, my lips and my heart so that I may learn it, speak it and love it.”*

Read: Children's Everyday Bible, pp. 312, *On the Road to Emmaus*

After the reading say: *The Gospel of the Lord*

Children respond: *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

Discussion Starters:

- *Where are the disciples going?*
- *Why are they sad?*
- *Who joins the disciples on the road to Emmaus?*
- *Do the disciples know this right away?*
- *What happens when Jesus shares a meal with his friends?*

Reflection on Reading:

Jesus' friends had a great surprise! Like the disciples last week when Jesus appeared to them in the Upper Room. No one expected Jesus to rise from the dead. They had no idea that Jesus had risen from the tomb.

Jesus friends recognized him in the breaking of the bread. During mass we celebrate Jesus Christ's death and resurrection in the bread and wine that become the Body and Blood of Christ. Jesus is really present in the communion received at Mass. Jesus looked different after he rose from the dead. His own friends didn't recognize him. Sometimes people don't recognize Jesus in the Eucharist because it looks like bread and wine. We know it is Jesus, he told us to believe.

Gospel Activity

Activity 1:

Share a Meal:

When we gather together each week in church to share in the Eucharist, we remember that Jesus is with us always. Even though you aren't old enough yet to receive communion, you can go to the altar and get a blessing. By sharing this meal, we are joined together with Jesus and with one another. The Eucharist is the center of our Christian life. We remember that Jesus suffered and died and that he rose from the dead.

Every week at Mass, Father says special prayers over the bread and wine so they become Jesus. Father holds his hands over the bread and wine and by the power of the Holy Spirit they become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Using the props set up a picnic. Volunteers can help spread the tablecloth, put out plates and napkins and put out the pretend food. Once it is all set up have everyone gather around and using

the poster say the Our Father using and echo technique, Our Father (our Father)/Who is in heaven (Who is in heaven) etc.

Say: *Whenever we share a meal we can say prayers and remember Jesus loves us.*

(Optional: Use the props to help the children act out the story as you read it again.)

Activity 2:

Following Jesus:

This game is played like Simons Says, but you say “Jesus says” instead of saying “Simon Says”

Say: *The gospels tells us we should follow what Jesus taught us. We should pray, listen to and learn from the stories of Jesus, love and serve God and each other. Wouldn't it be wonderful if, when Jesus comes in glory, he found everyone doing what was right and good and just? Wouldn't it be wonderful if he found us all caring for each other lovingly because he told us to? Let's practice following Jesus.*

Sample Actions-pick a couple actions ahead of time where you won't say “Jesus says”. Children who are out-can help you catch others:

- Hug your neighbor
- Close your hands in prayer
- Go to Church-(March in place)
- Say peace be with you to your neighbor
- Say Alleluia
- Clap your hands
- Jump one time
- Shake hands with your neighbor
- Praise God-Raise your hands up high
- Listen to Jesus (cup hand around ear)

Complete the weekly bulletin as a group-let the children color them if there is extra time

Closing Prayer

(Children respond: “I Believe!”)

Ask: *Do you believe in God, loves us always?*

Do you believe in Jesus, who is with us every day?

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who opens our eyes to recognize Jesus?

Sending Forth

Say: *This week we can remember to find Jesus all around us. He is there when our mom and dad get us breakfast in the morning. He is there in a friend helps you up when you fall on the playground. He is there when you are reading a story with your brother or sister. Jesus is there when we go to bed at night. He is always with us so we can remember to do what he taught us to do...being kind and generous to others.*

Lining Up/Closing Song

Play “*Rejoice in the Lord Always*” track 3 from Easter Medley while children put away any materials and lineup. Hand out weekly bulletins. Remind them it is important that they return to their family quietly so that we may all listen and pray together in church.