

Jesus Appears to Disciples

Grades
3-4

WONDERING • EASTER 3 • YEAR B

LUKE 24:36b-48



What is happening in this story?

This is one story of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances to the disciples. They are confused and afraid—they think Jesus is a ghost! Jesus patiently shows them proof that he is in fact real, and convinces them that he has been raised from the dead. He then sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

Why does this story matter for kids?

The disciples had lots of questions and did lots of wondering about Jesus' resurrection. Could it really be him? They had seen him die a terrible death, and now here he was, standing there before them. Jesus patiently gave them different "proofs" of his alive, resurrected self. Many of us still have questions and still wonder about things we hear in church or read in the Bible. Just like Jesus was patient with the disciples, he is patient with us as we wonder and search for the truth.

What is the lectionary connection?

We celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, but we get to hear the stories again and again to let them soak in. This text sets a bigger context for Easter and reminds us of the longer story in which we live.

AGE LEVEL TIP

Kids this age are just beginning to wonder if they can believe everything they are told. Don't let your group stall on the physical regeneration of Jesus. Focus on the renewal in the story, both in Jesus and in the disciples.



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Scissors
- Paper
- Crayons (light-colored)
- Markers

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Random objects to hide
- Flashlight
- Paper clips
- Bowl
- Pitcher of water

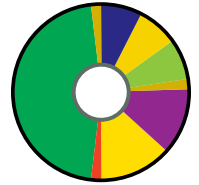
WHIRL SUPPLIES • WHIRL NRSV BIBLES • DVD • WALL CHART • LEAFLETS

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Make a list of random objects you will hide around the room. Hide the objects. Leave the list where early arrivers will see it, and have them start a search to find them all.

Invite kids to look at the Wall Chart.

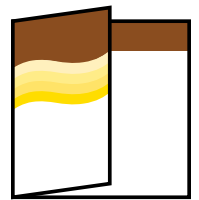
Point out today's date, church season, color, and icon. **We're still in the season of Easter! Today we will hear a story of Jesus appearing to his disciples again. They can still see the wounds on his hands.** Ask kids to mark the chart by drawing hands showing a nail wound.



Start with a full pitcher of water and an empty bowl. Fill the bowl with water as you say: **At Easter, we celebrate how Jesus' resurrection fills us all with new life.**

Pass out leaflets and markers.

What question would you ask Jesus if he was standing in our room right now? Write that question inside the blue circle. Ask kids to share their questions aloud, if they feel comfortable. Wonder together about possible answers.



Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

What do you do when you can't figure something out on your own? Share answers. Let's watch what Leo does.

View Episode 9, "Night of the Living Christ," on the Whirl Year B Spring Grades 3–6 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- **When have you been unable to find out something you wanted to know?**
- **What was Leo trying to accomplish with the flower? Why?**
- **What about God do you not understand?**
- **How do you go about finding those answers?**
- **How does knowing that God can't be completely known make you feel? Is that exciting to you, or does it bother you?**



Pass out Whirl NRSV Bibles and help kids find Luke 24:36b-48.

Do the Easter 3 Preview Activity together on page 1234 and compare responses.

Read Luke 24:36b-48 in this creative way together: **Jesus' disciples were gathered together again in Jerusalem. With fear and wonder, they were beginning to hear stories that Jesus had come back to life. The news was exciting and alarming at the same time. What did that mean? Suddenly, Jesus appeared right in the middle of the room!** Pass the flashlight around your group. Tell them to hold it against their chins, pointed up—ghost-story style—as they take turns reading the verses.



Ask these questions after you read the story:

- If Jesus appeared in the middle of this room right now, what would your natural, instant reaction be?
- How does the resurrection of Jesus affect the disciples?
- The first thing Jesus says is, "Peace be with you." How do you find peace when you're overwhelmed by emotion or unexpected news?
- When have you had something unbelievable happen right before your eyes?
- Verse 45 says that Jesus "opened their minds" to the scriptures. That means they suddenly *understood* them. How can you use scripture to increase your knowledge of God?

BIBLE BIT

Our understanding of peace goes beyond a lack of conflict; the peace Jesus offers give us hope and confidence for the future.

WATCH IT AGAIN

This time notice how Gabe helps Leo try to find answers.

OUR CHURCH

Ask kids what they wonder about in your church. Answer as well as you can. Don't know? Ask someone, and then tell kids the answers you found.

RESPOND 10

Open leaflets and pass out light-colored crayons and scissors.

Tear off leaflet square.

1. This story is filled with things to wonder about. Jesus must have known that he would startle people when they saw him. I wonder how he felt.
2. When someone isn't expecting that you are nearby, how do you let them know so that they won't be afraid?
3. Look at the outline of Jesus on the Launch panel. Use a light-colored crayon to add facial features. Cut around the outline.
4. Center the top of Jesus' head at the top of the Family Square side of the leaflet, with the black side touching the leaflet. Attach it with a paper clip.
5. Ask one volunteer to hold up their Respond square, with the disciples facing the group. Ask a second volunteer to shine the flashlight on Jesus from the Family square side when you say, "Peace be with you." Let kids discover how Jesus "appears" among the disciples. **Peace be with you!**
6. Take turns with the flashlight, making everyone's Jesus appear.
7. Okay. Jesus is alive! He's given the disciples a brand-new understanding of scripture. If you're a disciple, what do you do next?

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

What an exciting day for the disciples, and for us too! What stood out to you today? Take time to hear kids' responses. When we welcome God into our daily life, we can find the peace that Jesus offered his disciples—even if we don't understand everything.

Return to the leaflet panels and pass out light-colored crayons.

The disciples believed Jesus was alive. Remove the Jesus outline. Write something you believe about God inside the outline. Attach the outline to the disciples' side of the square.

Send kids out.

Gather around the water bowl again. Everyone says, "At Easter, we celebrate how Jesus' resurrection fills us all with new life."

Pray together: **God, may we be forever in wonder of who you are. Help us find peace where we lack understanding. Amen.**

Thank kids for continuing to work on understanding God. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.