Younger Preschool April 12

Bible Teaching: The Road to Emmaus

Bible Passage: Luke 24:13–35

Summary:

Two of Jesus' followers were walking along a road discussing all that had happened. Jesus walked beside them, but they didn't recognize it was Him. They told Him all that had occurred over the past few days. Jesus explained to them how all of the Old Testament pointed to Him and how He would rescue the people from their sins. Later they ate with Jesus and their eyes were opened. They realized Jesus was truly alive!

Today's Brite Idea is: God gave us the Bible to point to Jesus.

Monthly Memory Verse: (John 3:16)

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son.

Monthly Big Question: How did Jesus save us? He died on the cross and rose again!

Leader Training

Preschool Perspectives: Clutter Free

A clutter-free space is so important for effective preschool classroom management. When the room is tidy and organized, kids naturally feel calmer, safer and better able to focus. Too much clutter—whether it's extra toys, unused supplies or random items piling up—can overwhelm preschoolers and create unnecessary distractions. Keeping things simple helps kids know where to find what they need and understand what's expected of them. Clearly labeled bins, designated play areas and tidy supply spaces make transitions smoother and minimize chaos. Plus, a clean space shows kids that you value their environment and want them to feel comfortable and cared for! Jesus modeled order and intentionality in His ministry, and we can reflect that by creating a peaceful, welcoming space. When you take time to declutter and organize, you'll create a space where kids can focus on what matters most.

Navigating a Broken World: Unexpected Emotions

Preschoolers may appear to be overreacting to a situation, but don't assume you know the whole story. Their reaction could be a response to events that happened before they arrived. Show kids that you believe in them. Assure an upset kid that they are okay. Ask them if there's anything they want to tell you. Share how you are sad to see them upset and want to help them still have a fun time with the group. Preschoolers often express their feelings but are not able to name them. Help provide words for how they might be feeling to identify how they could feel better. If they're crying, say, "It seems like you're sad. What is making you cry?" Or if they kick a chair, say, "It looks like you're angry because you kicked the chair." This will help them identify the emotions they are feeling. From there, work together on how a kid might rejoin the group. Offer to participate in an activity with them or for them to be your special helper for the day. By showing grace for the big emotions, preschoolers will learn to trust you with their feelings.

Preschool Glossary:

Emmaus: a city where Jesus appeared to two disciples
Prophets: a person who gives God's messages to His people
Redeem: make something right or better

Younger Preschool

Small Group Roadmap

Belong (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

Follow the Leader
Supplies: None

Bible Teaching (15 minutes)

The Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13–35)
Supplies: Bible, Bible story cards

Believe (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

On the Road
Supplies: Building blocks, ball

Become (10 minutes)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

The Bible Tells Me So
Supplies: Take-Home page, printable page, coloring supplies, heart stickers

Follow the Leader

Belong Activity

Supplies: None

Prep: None

Activity Intro: Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

Instructions:

1. **Say:** Let's play Follow the Leader! You will copy everything I do as I lead you around our space.
2. *Gather kids to stand up and face you. Call out the different movements and lead kids to follow you.*
3. Movements:
    - Waving hands high in the air
    - Hugging yourself tight
    - Pointing up to the sky
    - Taking big steps
    - Wiggling your body
    - Jumping
    - Touching your head
    - Clapping your hands
4. **Ask:** Was it fun to follow the leader?

Activity Wrap-Up: In today's Bible story, we will learn about two people who followed the road to a place called **Emmaus**. Someone very important joined them; let's find out who it was!

Bible Teaching

Supplies: Bible, Bible story cards

Prep: Print the Bible story cards double-sided.

The Road to Emmaus
(Luke 24:13–35)

Say: Today's true story from the Bible comes from the book of Luke. Two of Jesus' friends were walking on a road. Can you move your fingers like two legs walking? The believers were talking about everything that had just happened. Jesus died on the cross, and now some women said He was alive! The friends were very confused.

Say: As they walked, Jesus came near and walked beside them. Can you walk your fingers again? But they didn't know it was Him! Jesus asked, "What are you talking about?" One of the men said, "Don't you know what has happened?" Then they told Jesus about the cross and the tomb.

Say: Jesus asked them if they believed what God's Word said. Then He explained to them that everything written in the Old Testament, the first part of the Bible, was all about Him. The writers had told how he would die and rise again, and that is exactly what happened! Say, "Hurray!"

Say: They reached the city. The friends asked Jesus to stay and eat with them. They sat together. Jesus took the bread and blessed it. He broke it and gave them pieces. Then they realized it was Jesus who had been with them the entire time! Say, "Hi Jesus!" As soon as they realized it, Jesus was gone.

Say: The two friends ran back to Jerusalem. They found the 11 disciples. They exclaimed, "It's true! Jesus is risen; we have seen Him!" Jesus was God's plan to save everyone from their sins. The whole Bible teaches that He is the Rescuer God promised.

Wrap-Up:

Big Question: How did Jesus save us? He died on the cross and rose again!

Memory Verse: (John 3:16)

Watch the Memory Verse Video and practice the motions with the kids.

- For God *(point up to the sky)*
- so loved *(hug yourself)*
- the world, *(make a circle above your head)*
- that He gave His only Son. *(extend arms out)*
- John 3:16 *(open hands like opening a book)*

He: The Bible teaches us about Jesus.
We: We can learn about Jesus.
Me: I can learn about Jesus.

On the Road

Believe Activity

Supplies: Building blocks, ball

Prep: None

Activity Intro: The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned how two disciples realized it was true that Jesus had risen. They quickly went to tell the other disciples the good news.

Instructions:

1. **Say:** The disciples walked along the road with Jesus. But they did not know it was Jesus until later on. When they realized it, they quickly went back down the road to tell the other disciples that Jesus had risen! Jesus is alive!
2. *Lay out the building blocks. Lead kids to help you make two paths lining up the building blocks next to one another.*
3. *Divide the kids into two groups. Have some stand at one end of the path and the other group stand at the other end of the path.*
4. *Place a ball and lead kids to roll the ball back and forth. When it gets to the next group of kids, lead them to say, "Jesus is Alive!"*
5. **Ask:** Who is alive?

Activity Wrap-Up: Great job, friends! Just like the disciples shared the good news that Jesus was alive, we can share the good news too!

The Bible Tells Me So

Become Activity

Supplies: Take-Home page, printable page, coloring supplies, heart stickers

Prep: Print the printable page (1 per kid). Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

Instructions:

1. **Ask:** Who did we learn about today?
2. **Say:** Jesus walked with the two disciples and told them that the whole Bible is about Him.
3. *Pass out the printable page, coloring supplies and heart stickers to each kid.*
4. *Invite kids to use the coloring supplies and stickers to decorate their pages.*
5. *As they color, lead them to say the Brite idea after you.“God gave us the Bible to point to Jesus!”*
6. *Write the kid’s name on their paper and set aside for parent pick up.*

Discussion Questions:

- What book helps us learn about Jesus?
- What did Jesus do for us?
- How much does Jesus love us?
- What did you learn from today’s Bible story?

Pray Together: Dear God, thank You for giving us the Bible. Thank You for how it helps us learn about Jesus. Help us follow You every day. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Activity Wrap-Up: Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.

Centers

Set up 3–4 centers around the room for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the room, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions on what kids should do in each center.

- **Bible Time:** Provide picture-book Bibles for kids to flip through the pages and look at the pictures. Ask them to share what their favorite Bible story is.
- **Pipe Cleaner Arrows:** Fill a bin with pipe cleaners. Encourage kids to try and create an arrow out of the pipe cleaners. Leave a simple example for kids to follow. Share the Brite idea, “God gave us the Bible to point to Jesus.”
- **Hula Hoop Hop:** Lay out three to five Hula Hoops in a path and have kids jump through them. Share how the disciples walked along a road in today’s Bible story.

Bonus Bible Script

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time, or while waiting for parents.

Say: Two of Jesus’ followers were walking along a road, talking about what had happened. Jesus walked beside them, but they didn’t realize it was Him. They told Jesus all that had happened. Jesus shared how the whole Bible promised that He would save us from our sins. Later, they ate with Jesus and their eyes were opened. They realized Jesus was truly alive!

How did Jesus save us? He died on the cross and rose again!