



Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

Bible Passage: Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23

Key Passage: “ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” **Matthew 28:19-20**

Big Picture Question: What is our mission as believers? Our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit.

Bottom Line: I can know Jesus is alive so I can trust Him and tell others about Him.

Christ Connection: Jesus prepared His disciples for a life of ministry. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be with us until He returns.

LARGE GROUP: Communicating God’s truth in engaging ways.

Say This: We are at a really cool part of God’s big story. Now remember, Jesus had been crucified and buried in a tomb, but we know that Jesus rose from the dead on the third day. Jesus appeared to Mary, and that same day, Jesus explained to two of His disciples how all of the Scriptures point to Him. Jesus was really busy after He raised from the dead! Listen to our Bible story to learn what Jesus did next. Our story this week is called “Jesus Appeared to the Disciples.”

Watch Video:

As believers and followers of Jesus, we have a mission. This mission comes from Jesus Himself, and He gave it to His disciples after He rose from the dead on the third day. This mission is also our big picture question. Our big picture question is, ***What is our mission as believers? Our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit.***

When you have a great surprise, what do you want to do after getting it? [*Allow kids to answer, but make sure to point out that we usually want to share that great surprise with others.*]

Jesus’ appearing to the disciples was an amazing surprise. Although Mary and some of Jesus’ other followers had told the disciples that they had seen Jesus alive, the disciples were confused. They were hiding in a locked room, trying to make sense of what had happened, when suddenly **Jesus appeared to His disciples!**

The disciples were afraid at first, but Jesus calmed their fears. Jesus showed them His hands and His side, and He also ate fish to show that He was not a ghost. Jesus was really, truly, physically alive! Jesus’ disciples were so happy, they rejoiced. Then Jesus told them they had a job to do. He said that they were to tell everyone that He was alive.

Christ connection

Jesus, who had the power to defeat death, didn’t just give the disciples a job to do in their own power. Jesus gave them power through the Holy Spirit so they could tell the world He is alive. Jesus is



still alive today. As Christians, our job is to tell everyone that He is alive so that other people can believe the truth about Jesus and become His followers, or disciples.

What is our mission as believers? Our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Holy Spirit. We do that by telling people who Jesus is and what He has done to rescue us from sin and death. Then we wait to see the Holy Spirit move. Only God can change a person's heart, but we spread the gospel so everyone has a chance to hear.

Let's pray together and head out to small group.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 40 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Bible skills

What You Need: Bibles, Story Point Poster

What You Do:

- Help kids practice finding the Gospel of Luke in their Bibles.
- Guide them to the New Testament.
- Point kids to Luke 24:36-49.

What You Say • Luke was a follower of Jesus who wrote down eyewitness testimony about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Luke wrote that the disciples were surprised that Jesus came back from the dead, even though Jesus had told them He would not stay dead. Let's go over some questions from our Bible story.

2. Discussion Questions:

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

- **What did the disciples think Jesus was when He first appeared to them?** (*a ghost, Luke 24:37*)
- **How did Jesus show that He is alive?** (*He told the disciples to touch and see His hands and feet. He also ate fish with them; Luke 24:39-43*)
- **What job did Jesus give His disciples?** (*tell other people that Jesus died to rescue them from sin and God raised Jesus from the dead on the third day, Luke 24:46-49*)
- **Who at your school, on your sports team, or in your family needs to hear that Jesus died on the cross to rescue people from sin and is alive today?**
- **How would you tell that person about Jesus in your own words?**
- **How do you feel when you think of sharing the good news of Jesus with others?**

Allow kids to be honest. If they are excited, affirm them. If they are scared or worried to share, still affirm them and help them understand that Jesus gives His followers a Helper, the Holy Spirit. It is OK to be afraid, and they can ask for help from the Holy Spirit.

3. Memory Verse Activity



What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, dry erase board and markers, paper, markers, scissors, tape

What You Do:

- Make sure the memory verse is visible for each kid, either as a printed poster or written on a dry erase board.
- Read the verse together.
- Divide the memory verse into phrases and write each one on a separate piece of paper.
- Distribute the sheets of paper to the kids.
- Instruct kids to hold their paper in front of them so the words are visible.
- Any kid who does not have a sheet of paper may help arrange the kids in correct order of the memory verse.
- Invite kids to say the phrases on their sheets of paper in order.
- Take turns as time allows.

What You Say: “Our Memory verse is called the Great Commission. Jesus gave the Great Commission to His disciples, and it is a command for all of His followers. We call this verse the Great Commission because it is the most important mission we have on earth: telling people the good news about Jesus!

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Prayer journals, Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute journal pages one to each kid.
- Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:
 - What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
 - What does this story teach me about myself?
 - Whom can I tell about this story?
- If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session.
- Pray for your group.

As adults arrive to pick up, tell kids to recite the memory verse to them.