



# THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

Luke 24:13-35 & Mark 16:12-13

## Memory Verse

**I am with you always. Matthew 28:20**

## Context/Background

Jerusalem has just witnessed Jesus being crucified on a cross by the Romans, at the request of the Jewish people and the Pharisees. The story picks up with two disciples of Jesus (not part of the Twelve, but still disciples), who are discouraged and walking away from Jerusalem. They are walking on the road that leads to a village called Emmaus.

Emmaus was a place that was known at the time for a century and a half earlier being won back from its Greek occupants due to the military efforts of the Maccabees.

## Summary

Two disciples are walking on the road to Emmaus, discouraged by Jesus' death. As they are talking, Jesus comes and walks alongside them, although they are kept from recognising him.

They explain to Jesus what went on and he begins to teach them about how all of the Old Testament actually pointed to the events in the last few days, and how it was necessary for the Messiah to die in order to save the world.

When they reach their destination, the disciples invite him in for dinner. It is in this meal that Jesus shares 'communion' with them (breaking of bread and drinking of wine) and their eyes are opened to who Jesus really was all along.

They are so excited and impacted by this experience that they race back to Jerusalem to tell all the other disciples what had happened.

## Relevance/Application

**Themes: Communion, faith, hope, appreciation, trust**

### Younger students:

- Jesus is a companion on the road, even when we might not recognise him.
- We invite Jesus in, he doesn't force himself.
- Jesus is a friend who walks with us every day.

### Older students:

- Even when we are discouraged or think we are alone, Jesus is always with us on the journey.
- Jesus is revealed to us in the meal – the Sacrament of Communion. We encounter and are encountered by Jesus in his Word and in the sacraments (baptism and Holy Communion).
- Faith gives us 'eyes to see' Jesus, and empowers us to see the world differently.

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## Christian Studies Framework

**CHRISTIAN BELIEFS Key Idea 2 The person and work of Jesus the Christ is central to Christianity**

**CHRISTIAN LIVING Key Idea 1 Christians believe that God creates people to live in relationship with him and with each other**

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## Catechism Connections

In the Apostles' Creed we say: *I believe in... the resurrection of the body.* We believe in the resurrection of Jesus' body. After Jesus died, his body became alive again. His friends saw him, talked with him and ate with him. He proved that he wasn't a ghost, but a real living person. Jesus is stronger than death. Because he came to life again, we know all human beings who have died will become alive again on the last day.

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## Discussion/Wondering Questions:

### Early Years

- The two men walking to Emmaus were feeling sad. What turned their sadness into joy?

### Primary

- Share about a favourite place you like to go walking.
- Do you have a friend you like to spend time with?
- The two men walking to Emmaus were feeling sad. What turned their sadness into joy?
- Why didn't the disciples recognise it was Jesus talking to them? Why would Jesus hide his identity only to reveal it later in the story?

### Secondary

- What's just happened in the biblical story? How would these disciples be feeling?
  - Have you ever experienced grief? What or who comforted you?
  - Why is Emmaus significant (see Telling the Story section)?
  - What is significant about the meal they share together? Can you think of any other significant meals in the Bible?
  - Have you experienced Jesus alongside you when times have been difficult?
  - It is good to spend time with other people. Maybe this week we can think of some people who might need a friend to spend time with them.
  - Explore the historical significance of Emmaus for the Jewish people (Maccabean Revolt) and contrast it with the kind of saviour Jesus shows himself to be (Military Revolt vs Self-Sacrificial Revolution).
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## Images or objects to spark discussion

- Bread / Wine (Communion Elements)
  - Blindfold
  - Footprints Poem
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## Telling the Story

**Bibles:** The Beginner's Bible  
The Big Rescue Bible  
The NIV Bible

### Creative Storytelling:

Share the Footprints poem and invite students to make connections between the poem and this story.

Listen to/sing 'Abide with Me' and learn about the background of this famous hymn [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abide\\_with\\_Me](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abide_with_Me)

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Compare the description of the Emmaus meal with the first meal of the Bible (Adam and Eve eat fruit from the tree of knowing good and bad). What is Jesus doing here? (hint: He's reversing the curse and announcing himself as the 'New Adam' who God promised would crush the snake in Genesis 3. The bible is full of 'hyperlinks', key words or phrases that when we hear them we are supposed to remember other parts of the Bible (meals are one of these hyperlinks).

### Tracts and Other Resources

Lutheran Tract Mission

[The Road to Emmaus story leaflet](#)

GROW Ministries

Growing Faith at Home, Easter 3A



### Audio Stories/Podcasts

Bible.is - <https://www.faithcomesbyhearing.com/audio-bible-resources/bible-is>

Audio recordings of the Bible in many different languages and several English translations. All four gospels also available in film versions, searchable by book and chapter. Excellent resource for NESB learners.

### Videos: Early Years / Junior Primary

[The Road to Emmaus \(Bible Story\) Luke 24:13-35 - Vine Youth Ministry](#)

### Middle – Upper Primary

[The Road to Emmaus - Saddleback Kids](#)

[Jesus on the Road to Emmaus - LifeKids](#)

### Secondary/Staff

[Lumo Project Gospel Of Luke Chapter 24:13-35 - LUMO](#)

[The Resurrection of Jesus: Luke 24 – BibleProject](#) (from 2:00)

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## Invocation

We begin this time of worship/devotion in the name of God who loves us so much that he gave us his only Son Jesus who died and rose again so that all who believe will not die but live forever, and The Holy Spirit who walks with us on the road, reminding us of all Jesus said and did.

**Amen.**

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## Prayers

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank you for loving us so much that you died for us. We know that you came to life again. Help us to be sure that you are with us, even though we can't see you. Amen.

Lord Jesus, open our minds to understand the Scriptures and our mouths to speak of you. Amen.

Lord Jesus, you are the living word of God, speak to us and make us new. Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,  
You give hope to those in despair.  
Just as you appeared to your disciples on the road to Emmaus,  
make your presence known to us in your Sacred Scripture.  
Set our hearts on fire when we read or listen to your Word.  
Open our eyes, that we might see your face in the breaking of the bread.

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Give us the courage to share our days with you  
so that others might come to know, love, and serve you as well.  
We ask all this in your name, Lord Jesus Christ.  
Amen

(from <https://www.thereligionteacher.com/roadtoemmaus-lesson-plan/> )

- For those far from God's love to know it more fully
- For the disheartened or disenchanting to discover a bountiful hope

### **Mealtime Prayer**

God bless our food,  
God guide our ways,  
God give us strength  
to declare your praise. Amen.

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## **Blessing**

Go with the peace of knowing God walks with you on the road and full of the hope that comes in knowing Jesus, who gave his life so that we may live life to the full.

OR

May the light of God's face shine on you and be gracious to you and fill your heart with joy.

OR

(Name), may the Lord walk with you today and always.

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## **Music**

[Everyday – Hillsong Worship](#)

[Walkin' down the road – Robin Mann](#) (All Together 87)

[Jesus Loves Me - Sing Hosanna](#)

[Jesus I Will Walk with You – Joyful Noise](#)

[Unexpected Roads - Mosaic MSC](#)

[I'll Never Walk Alone - Every Nation Music](#)

Abide with Me (Lutheran Hymnal 543) or [Hymn: Abide With Me](#)

[Music at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney](#) or [Abide With Me - Audrey Assad](#)

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## **Activities**

### **Early Years:**

- Give each student an A4 piece of card stock. Have them trace around their foot. If their feet are small enough they can trace both feet, making it look like they are taking a step. Write inside the foot – JESUS IS ALWAYS WITH US. Colour in or decorate around the feet making it look like the ground. You could use scrunched green tissue paper for grass, or brown for dirt, or a mixture. Or cut up different colours of green, brown, tan paper and glue on like a mosaic.

### **Primary:**

- Act out the story using a Readers' Theatre (eg <https://revlisad.files.wordpress.com/2011/07/road-to-emmaus-readers-theater1.pdf> )

### **Upper Primary/Secondary:**

- Jesus came alongside two of his followers in their sorrow and brought them joy. Plan a visit to someone in your community who would appreciate some company. If they are able, you could go for a walk together.
  - Walk a maze/labyrinth or create a prayer walk with multiple stations in the school grounds, sharing each part of this story. Here are some ideas
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for stations:

<https://methodistchildrencreativeministry.org/2019/04/30/road-to-emmaus-prayer-stations/>

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