

26/04/20 Virtual Junior Church

EAHs06

Bible Verses: Luke 24:13-35, Isaiah 53:4-10, Acts 2:22-28

To tell the story of the encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus.

Leader's notes

The disciples had been excited as Jesus' ministry built up: they had come to expect that he would be the Messiah, the king they had waited for. They expected that he would establish a kingdom on earth! But then he was crucified. Their expression as they walked slowly over to Emmaus would have been sad: all that expectation, and so little to show for it – just the memory of a few miracles and some rules to live by. But then Jesus joined them and explained everything – and they understood! Jesus was the Messiah – he had established a kingdom: it looked different to the one they were expecting but it was better, bigger, eternal! No wonder they raced back to Jerusalem in order to share the good news!

The main lesson for this session is that when we see the whole story, the full set of facts, we understand and our attitude changes. You see, the circumstances were no different for Cleopas and his companion. Jesus was still physically not present (at least not all the time!); the threat of persecution from the authorities was still very real – more real as it turned out! Life was still very different: instead of following a physically present Jesus and listening to his teaching they would now be following the guidance of the Holy Spirit and they didn't know what was ahead for them. But they were excited and full of faith because they understood now that this wasn't a mistake – it was part of God's plan and they could trust God to continue to lead them! Knowing the facts had transformed their attitude and probably the rest of their lives.

We also go through times when it seems as if everything has gone wrong. We can learn from these two men to have faith in a God who will not desert us, who is very much in control of his universe. We might not understand what God is doing, but we can learn to trust that God has everything under control for us as well. And one day we will see and understand the whole picture! The activities in this session look, in the first section, at how we feel when our expectations aren't met (and consequently how Cleopas and his companion felt) and in the last section encourage us to have faith that God has everything in control whatever the circumstances!

An Unexpected Meeting

Teaching Time

15 mins



Visual And Audio Clips

Summary of clip: In this clip, Jesus comes alongside two of his followers on the road to Emmaus.

Start of clip: 1:17:50

End of clip: 1:20:53

Length of clip: 3:03

There is a link to a YouTube clip here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wR4xhA4Mb6A> stop the clip at 4 minutes when the animation ends

Ask the children how the disciples must have been feeling at the beginning of the video clip. Why were the two going to another town? Why do you think Jesus didn't tell them who he was straight away?

What does Jesus tell them on the walk? How do the two recognise him in the end? What do they do as soon as they recognise him? How do they feel at the end of the clip?

Are these two disciples changed by meeting Jesus on the road? Why? Why is this meeting more important than Jesus just having a chat with two of his friends? (It is one of the things that changes everything because it was proof that Jesus really did rise from the dead!)

The Point: To tell the story.

Equipment

DVD of The Miracle Maker and the means to play it.

Warm!

Response

10 mins



Memory Verse

“When Jesus talked with us along the road... didn't it warm our hearts?” Luke 24:32

Sit the children in a circle and choose one child. Send that child out of the room for a moment while you hide the heart object and the card with the verse on it. Everyone else should know where it's hidden.

Call the child back in and have them hunt for the heart. Everyone else should call out whether they are warm (close to the object) or cold (far away from it). You can have degrees of it - ie freezing is as far away as you can get; burning up would be pretty much on top of it.

When they find it, they should read the verse out.

Play several times with different children hunting.

The Point: To learn scripture.

Equipment

Heart shaped object, card with the verse on.

There And Back

Response

5 mins



Prayer

Ask the children to think about how the people in today's Bible passage would have moved as they

went to Emmaus? Ask them to move that way. Now ask them how they would have moved differently when they were coming back?

Again, show! Ask them why they had changed so much?

Say that in our lives we can feel upset by circumstances which we don't understand – things often go wrong in our lives! But that doesn't mean that God has forgotten us or that he is no longer in control. One day we will understand everything that has happened to us, and we will see that God has been at work all the time!

Ask the children to walk across the hall as if they are on their way to Emmaus as you pray: "Lord, sometimes we don't understand what is going on and we feel upset and miserable. Please help us, in those times, to trust that you have everything under control."

Now ask them to move as if they are coming back from Emmaus, having met Jesus, as you pray: "We know that you are always in control and you always work everything out! Amen."

The Point: To apply the teaching into our own lives.


Equipment

None.

Warming Hearts

Take Away

20 mins

 Food And Cooking

This item can be shared with your group using the QR code:

This activity will work well with the following Teaching Time activities: all.

Say that the two disciples on the road said that their hearts felt warmed when Jesus was speaking to them. Ask them what they think that means. Say that the disciples' hearts were recognising Jesus before their heads did! You're going to make gingerbread hearts to remind you of this.



Makes: 25 biscuits

Ingredients:

125 g unsalted butter
100 g dark muscovado sugar
4 tbsp golden syrup
325 g plain flour
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 tsp ground ginger
Writing Icing (optional)

Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 170°C, gas mark 3. Line baking trays with baking parchment. Melt the butter, sugar and syrup in a medium saucepan, stirring occasionally, then remove from the heat.
2. Sieve the flour, bicarbonate of soda and ginger into a bowl and stir the melted ingredients into the dry ingredients to make a stiff dough.
3. Turn out onto a lightly floured surface and roll to a thickness of about 5 mm. Dip biscuit cutters into flour before cutting the dough. Place the heart shapes onto the lined baking trays and bake, in batches, for 9-10 minutes until light golden brown.
4. Remove from the oven.
5. When completely cool, decorate with the icing. The gingerbread biscuits can be stored in an airtight container for up to two weeks.

The Point: A reminder that Jesus can warm our hearts.

Equipment

Ingredients as detailed in the main description, rolling pins, heart cutters, baking trays, oven, baking paper.
