

CONCEPTS that will be covered in the lesson

- Highlight the role of faith story (Biblical) literacy in the story
- Also highlight the role of familiarity with Jesus and the Jesus stories in this story
- Finally, note how recognizing Resurrected Jesus stems from the familiarity of Jesus stories and faith stories.

Materials needed:

1. Movie clip (available on rfour.org) from the American TV show, *The Office*
2. Electronics that show the video clip

THE LESSON

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING QUESTION

- One of the things we do every class is ask and answer the opening question at the beginning of class – because it helps us 1. Learn more about each other and 2. Helps “warm us up” for some of the ideas in the upcoming lesson. So we’re going to do that now.
- So here’s the opening question for today’s class. I [the teacher] will ask the question and then to give you some time to think of an answer, I will answer first.
- Once I answer the question, we’ll go around the circle and each of us will answer.
- When it’s your turn, start with your name and then answer the question to the best of your ability.
- **Here’s this week’s question:** In the story that we’re reading today, two disciples talk to each other about stories of Jesus and then later on, Jesus talks to those two disciples about stories from the Old Testament. What is your favorite Bible story to talk about and why??

TRANSITION TO VIDEO CLIP

- During this session, we’ve been reading and discussing stories that have both Jesus and food in them
- We read the story of the feeding of the 5000 and the story of the last supper.
- In both stories, we saw the pattern of “Take, bless, break, give.”
- We also discussed the themes of abundance and invitation.
- Today is the last class of this session.
- And to close out the session, we’ll be reading Walk to Emmaus story.
- It is a story about Jesus’ resurrection and takes place on the first Easter Sunday – or about 72 hours after the last

story we read (of the last supper).

- In it, there are two disciples who are leaving Jerusalem and walking home.
- They are very sad and dispirited by Jesus' crucifixion and do not yet understand that he is resurrected.
- But, that does not stop Resurrected Jesus from joining them in their walk.
- During that walk, the disciples do not recognize Jesus.
- This lack of recognition is the first thing I want us to pay attention to about this story.
- To get started, let's watch a video clip that's about recognizing someone...or not
- In this video clip from the American version of the TV series *The Office*, Jim (who doesn't even appear in the clip) plays yet another of his many pranks on his co-worker, Dwight.
- Let's see what happens.

WATCH VIDEO CLIP

ASK

- I'm going to call the Jim who was on-screen "Not-Jim" and the actual Jim (who didn't appear on-screen), I'm going to call "Regular-Jim."
- Was Dwight talking to not-Jim or regular-Jim in the video clip? (Not-Jim. That's the prank)
- Did Dwight know not-Jim wasn't regular-Jim? (Yes...at first)
- How did he know? (Because not-Jim doesn't look anything like regular-Jim)
- What things were included in the prank to try and convince Dwight that not-Jim was actually regular-Jim? (details about what happened at work the day before, the phone code, Pam kissing him good morning, and then, the picture)
- At the end of the clip, do you think Dwight was less sure in his thinking that not-Jim wasn't regular-Jim? (well...it certainly seemed like Dwight was running out ways to prove not-Jim was not Jim)

TELL

- What I like about this clip is that it really illustrates how a person's looks are not the only way we recognize someone.
- In fact, how someone looks is only part of how we identify someone.
- In this clip, then, how not-Jim looks is the ONLY clue Dwight has that tells him that not-Jim is not regular-Jim. All the other clues tell Dwight that not-Jim actually IS regular-Jim.
- It's funny because we can ALL SEE that not-Jim is obviously not regular-Jim.
- But, at the same time, as we see Dwight try and prove that not-Jim isn't regular-Jim, we also start to better understand how recognizing someone isn't necessarily as straightforward as we might think it is.
- We see how behavior, personal knowledge, and existing relationships are also a very important part of identifying and recognizing someone.
- In today's scripture story, then, a very similar situation happens.
- The one difference is that the person the disciples think is not-Jesus actually *is* (Resurrected) Jesus
- Let's see how they finally identify / recognize Resurrected Jesus.

READ Luke 24:13-33 (*recommendation: Have class read it aloud; one person per verse*)

13Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. 18Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" 19He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. 22Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a

vision of angels who said that he was alive. 24Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." 25Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" 27Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. 28As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. 30When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. 32They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" 33That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.

ASK

- Thinking of the video clip, how do you usually identify who someone is? (how they look, where they are, how they sound, what they say, what they know, how they act, who they know).
- In short, it's not just one thing, right?
- So, were the two disciples able to recognize Resurrected Jesus right away? (no, they were not).
- Of the things that we just mentioned about identifying someone, why do you think the 2 disciples were not capable of recognizing Jesus while they were walking with him? (The biggest reason is probably because Jesus was supposed to be dead. Also, Jesus seems to feign ignorance about knowing what happened to him – at least at first. Finally, it's possible that Resurrected Jesus didn't/doesn't look like Ministry Jesus did)
- Regardless of the reasons we just came up with, do you think it is strange that the disciples don't recognize him? Why/why not?
- Regardless of the reasons why the disciples should or should not have recognized Jesus, let's look at how Jesus helps the two disciples actually recognize him
- In verses 19-24: When Resurrected Jesus first joined the disciples, what did the disciples talk to Jesus about? (They told him the story of Jesus' arrest and crucifixion)
- Verses 25 – 28: After the disciples told Resurrected Jesus about Ministry Jesus, what did Jesus talk to the disciples about? (Scripture/faith stories)
- In verse 30, what behavior / action does Jesus do that we've seen him do before? (he takes, blesses, breaks, and gives the bread).
- Where have we seen him do that before? (feeding of 5000; last supper)

- Verse 31 – when and why do the disciples finally recognize Jesus? (after the take, bless, break, giving of the bread)
- What happened once they recognized Jesus? (he disappeared)
- What do the two disciples do once they recognize Jesus? (they say, “we *knew* it was him while we were talking to him” and then head back to Jerusalem to rejoin and tell the other disciples)

TELL

- Resurrection is not an easy thing to understand.
- And as we can see in this story, Resurrected Jesus is not easy to recognize.
- Which is why I think this story is so helpful: Because it contains the steps that can help us better see and recognize resurrection and Resurrected Jesus in our own time and lives.
- So let’s look at those “steps” now.
- First step: The disciples are familiar with Jesus’ life, with the things he went through.
 - a) Not only are they familiar with Jesus’ life, they then talk to each other and others about these stories. We see this happen at the beginning of the story as they tell Jesus stories about...Jesus.
 - b) We can do those things, too. In fact, that’s exactly what we’ve been doing in class all year.
- Second step: Jesus and the disciples are both familiar with the stories in the Hebrew Bible (what we call the Old Testament)
 - a) Again, not only are they familiar with these stories, they talk about these stories with each other – or at least in this story, Jesus talks to them about the Old Testament stories and shows how they connect with Jesus.
 - b) This is also something we do together in class. We don’t talk about the Old Testament stories all the time, but we have discussed a number of the more central Old Testament stories.
- Third step: The disciples practice what they’ve learned from Jesus.
 - a) They are hospitable and invite the “stranger” into their home
 - b) They share food/break bread with Jesus just like Jesus did with them
 - c) These practices are what provide the disciples the opportunity for them to *really* see Jesus.
- Once you add all these different ways of getting to know someone together, then it allows the disciples to better connect the dots and recognize the habits and mannerisms of Resurrected Jesus.
- For instance, they *know* take, bless, break, give. And because they know take, bless, break, give – then they are able to see Jesus once he does that action.

TRANSITION TO ACTIVITY

- As you may have noticed, every lesson in this class centers on and around a Bible story
- It is also why, at different points during the year, we refer back to some of the stories we’ve discussed previously.
- Referring back to other stories is a way to repeat and remember what we’ve already read and discussed.
- And, as we saw in the story, this remembering of what we know works better when we do it together.
- So, let’s do some of that remembering now by recognizing characters from Bible stories we’ve previously read this year
- I’ll give you a summary of what the character did or what happened to them and then, as a class, you give me the character’s name.
- Most of these characters are from stories we’ve read and discussed this past year. But, there might be a few surprises in there as well.
- *Optional line:* And because *friendly* competition can be fun, let’s split into two teams. One point to the first team to correctly identify the name of the Bible character who is being described.

DO ACTIVITY

- **Q:** This person got to name animals (A: Adam)
- **Bonus Q:** After he named the animals, what had Adam still not found? (A: A companion / partner)

- **Q:** This person told a crowd of people that the disciples could speak in different languages because they filled with the Holy Spirit and not because they were drunk. (A: Peter)
- **Bonus Q:** What do we (the Church) call this day when the disciples spoke in tongues? (A: Pentecost)

- **Q:** This person told servants at a wedding party to do whatever Jesus told them to do (A: Mary, mother of Jesus)
- **Bonus Q:** What did Jesus then do at this wedding party? (A: turned water into wine)

- **Q:** This person built a boat that was then loaded with animals (A: Noah)
- **Bonus Q:** What weather event did God tell Noah would symbolize God's promise to never flood the entire world again (A: a rainbow)

- **Q:** God told this person to do something, the person did just the opposite, found themselves in a storm, and then told the sailors on the ship to throw him overboard. (A: Jonah)
- **Bonus Q:** What city had God told Jonah to go to? (A: Nineveh)

- **Q:** This person went into the wilderness after being baptized and did not eat for 40 days (A: Jesus)
- **Bonus Q:** What was one of the three temptations Jesus faced in the wilderness during this time? (A: Turn rocks to bread; worship Satan; jump from a high point and have God save him)

- **Q:** This couple had to leave home because of a Roman census even though the wife was pregnant. The wife ended up giving birth away from home. (A: Mary and Joseph)
- **Bonus Q:** What town did Mary give birth to Jesus in? (Bethlehem)

- **Q:** This "king" wanted the wise men to tell him where Jesus was born (A: King Herod)
- **Bonus Q:** Why didn't the wise men tell King Herod where Jesus was? (A: In a dream, God told them to go home a different way and not tell Herod)

- **Q:** Jesus helped three fisherman catch a whole lotta fish and then told them to follow him. They listened. Who were they? (Peter, James, and John)
- **Bonus Q:** What does Jesus tell them they will do if they follow him? A: Jesus tells them "I will make you fishers of people."

- **Q:** Jesus and the disciples are hungry and grab some grain from a field on the Sabbath. Who pops up out of nowhere and yells, "Caught ya, ya Sabbath breaker!" (A: The Pharisees)
- **Bonus Q:** In the same story, what else does Jesus do on the Sabbath? (heals a man in the synagogue)

- **Q:** After the Gerasene man who called himself "Legion" was healed by Jesus, two thousand of these ran into the sea (A: Pigs)
- **Bonus Q:** After the man is healed, what do his fellow townspeople ask Jesus to do? (A: Leave)

- **Q:** Before Jesus feeds the five thousand, what four things does he do with the food? (he takes, blesses, breaks and gives the food)

- Bonus Q: Afterwards, how much food is left over? (12 baskets of food are leftover)

From stories we haven't read yet this year

- Q: A burning bush that was not consumed grabbed his attention, and then turned into a conversation starter between him and God. Who was he? (A: Moses)
- Bonus Q: What did God ask/tell Moses to do? (A: Go to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let the Israelites go)
- Q: He was young and small, but defeated a large, fearsome warrior (A: David)
- Bonus Q: Who did David fight? (A: Goliath)

TELL

- Well done! Look at how many Bible characters you can recognize!
- The fancy word for knowing these stories and characters is *Biblical Literacy*
- You are well on your way to being Biblically literate.
- Now, *only* being familiar with the characters and stories in the Bible isn't the only piece of the puzzle to recognizing resurrection and Resurrected Jesus.
- However, it's a really important piece of the puzzle.
- And I look forward to us continuing to improve our familiarity with the Bible stories.
- See you next week!

CLOSING PRAYER