



OVERVIEW SECTION

How to Read This Lesson Plan

The **Overview Section** is the foundation of this lesson plan. The questions and activities for the class that you will be teaching on Sunday morning have been based (sometimes loosely) upon what you read in this section. The **Overview Section** is composed of five components (each component is underlined in the lesson plan):

- How to Read This Lesson Plan** (defines all components of the lesson plan)
- Purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation** (a reminder of why we do this)
- Scripture(s) for the Session** (a reminder that the scripture is to be read in every class)
- Key Verses & Theology** (background for teachers to ponder)
- Themes to Focus on from the Scripture** (the ideas that the session's lessons are based on)

The actual lesson is found in the second section, **The Sunday Morning Experience Section**. Think of this section as the step-by-step instruction guide to your Sunday morning teaching experience. There are four components to this section (again, each component is underlined in the actual lesson plan):

- Preparation** (including supplies needed)
- Classroom Statement** (a brief explanation of what will be taught/happening in the classroom)
- Step-by-step process of the lesson** (including the scripture to be read)
- Suggested variations for age groups** (Self-explanatory but not always applicable)

We encourage you to read the rest of this **Overview Section** before reading the **Sunday Morning Experience Section**.

Purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation

The purpose of Sunday Morning Spiritual Formation is, with God's help and in community, to hear and interact with the stories of our faith tradition, to pray, worship and play together, and to equip and support the building of relationships with God and with each other.

Scripture(s) for the Session: Luke 24:13-33

Please READ this aloud in every class you teach. The actual words to the scripture can be found in **The Sunday Morning Experience Section: Step-by-Step process of the lesson**. When reading to the class, please read it from the lesson plan (not an actual Bible) as the wording of the scripture has been modified to help clarify some language issues.

Key Verses & Theology: These are provided to help the teachers think about and build a framework for understanding the story to help in answering some of the questions that the students might raise in class.

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. These first few lines set the stage for the story. The “two of them” being Cleopas and someone else, possibly his wife. Obviously, these are not of the original 12 disciples, but members of another ring of disciples. But why are they leaving Jerusalem? We are not told. But we can infer from their language. When talking to Jesus about Jesus, they call Jesus a “prophet” and say that they had hoped he’d save Israel (v 21). Notice the past tense and the downgrade to prophet from Messiah. There is a palpable sense of “what could’ve been.” These two disciples are acting like they went to a horse race, bet on the wrong horse and are now returning to their everyday lives – whimsically and sadly reminiscing about the treasure they almost had, but just wasn’t to be. It was looking good there for a moment, things were going to be different, but instead, their horse lost, and so things were going to stay the same.

Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. Two things about this short passage. 1. Even though the two disciples are discouraged and leaving Jerusalem, they are still talking about Jesus. They haven’t fully returned to their old ways of life yet. The stories of Jesus are still strong in their hearts and minds. As they share and talk to each other of these stories, then Jesus becomes real to them. Appears to them. Joins them. Walks with them. Teaches them. 2. However, even though they are disciples, know Jesus, and are actively remembering the stories of Jesus, they do not recognize the Resurrected Jesus. This tells us that even when resurrection is staring us square in the face, there is something about resurrection that we struggle to fully comprehend or see on a physical level.

31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. The thing that causes the two of them to be able to see Jesus is a pattern of life that Jesus lives out in their presence, the pattern of *take, bless, break, give*. Jesus lives out this pattern in three different scripture stories: This story, the feeding of the thousands and the Last Supper. Because these disciples had followed Jesus, had listened and learned what Jesus taught, then they were able to recognize the patterns of Jesus in the moment – they could see that he lived on. That pattern, then, is what opens their eyes. Once they actually *see* the Resurrected Jesus, however, he disappears. Resurrection is not primarily a physical experience for us, even though it was for Jesus. For us, for the disciples, resurrection is the conclusion of our internalizing God’s/Jesus’ way into our lives. The way we internalize God is just like how the disciples internalized: Follow Jesus, talk about the stories, keep Jesus and what he was doing first and foremost in mind. This invites the way of Jesus into our beings and way of life. Jesus’ Way of life continues on, alive and well, when we invite the way of Jesus into our life. This is how the Body of Christ is formed.

33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. Once we are aware of how Jesus is alive in us and around us, that changes our focus and our direction. This is shown in a physical sense in the story as the two disciples do a U-turn away from their previous destination, Emmaus, at night no less, and return to where they just left: Jerusalem. Once we are aware of Jesus alive in us, everything changes.

Themes to Focus on from the Scripture: Themes are provided to help teachers understand the teaching of the *session* (not necessarily the class). Sometimes an activity in one class may not match up with any of the themes.

Faith Community – This story starts with the two disciples staying together. Yes, they broke away from the main faith community (the disciples in Jerusalem), and seemed to have given up by returning to their normal lives. But they still stayed with each other as they traveled. The things they had in common were their experiences as disciples. And so, that’s what they talked about as they walked. They talked about Jesus. They probably talked about their own understandings about Jesus and their own experiences with Jesus. This was the bond that held them together and then, as we see in this story, their talking about Jesus also brought in and welcomed the Resurrected Jesus into their midst.

Biblical Literacy – Biblical literacy is a fancy way of saying, “Know the faith stories!” This doesn’t mean you need to know book, chapter and verse. This doesn’t mean you need to memorize bible verses. What this means is that you are familiar and comfortable with the stories, know the characters in the stories by knowing their motivations and mistakes, as well as knowing a general timeline of when they existed. In the Emmaus story, as the three of them walk, Jesus is able to talk to the two disciples using a shared language, the language and stories of the scripture. Jesus speaks to them through the Bible. Being able to see the Resurrected Jesus (as demonstrated in this particular story) is a two-step process, then. It is through the experiences of following Jesus and then talking about those experiences that first invited Jesus into the two disciples’ midst. Then, once Jesus is invited into their midst, their conversation shifts to scripture (starting with Moses, says the story) which eventually leads to the two disciples recognizing Jesus in their midst.

Recognition – Recognition is not automatic. As a child, I had the hardest time finding specific shirts in my closet. I didn’t move the shirts in any particular order (like from left to right). I just flung my hand out and swiped at them. I also was impatient and often ready to give up with a sigh and a “It’s not here” complaint. I’d then attempt to shift responsibility and have someone else look for me, “Mom, where’d you put my shirt?” To be able to recognize and name something that is before you takes work and preparation. To be able to recognize the Resurrected Jesus in our midst, we need to first follow and know Jesus, the man. We need to know the other scripture stories as well. And we need to discuss these stories and experiences with each other. As we do these things, then we’ll see how the Resurrected Jesus is living within us and our faith community.

THE SUNDAY MORNING EXPERIENCE SECTION

Preparation

- Print out this lesson plan and bring it with you on the Sunday Mornings you are teaching
- Arrive at pre-arranged time to join other teachers, shepherds and staff for an opening prayer.
- Supplies Needed: ziplock bags (snack-sized is fine); oil-based pastels (or crayons); colored pencils; cardstock #110 weight (preferably the 11 x 17 size – but it is expensive); scissors; rulers; smocks; 3 variations for the printouts at the end of the lesson: 1. Copies on the cardstock of the puzzle patterns (for students who want to draw their own picture, but want to cut out the more traditional puzzle piece shape); 2. Copies on the cardstock of the provided collage from the story (for students who will cut their picture into easier puzzle piece shapes); 3. Copies of the collage on one side and the puzzle pattern on the other side (for students wanting the traditional puzzle piece shape and wanting to color the provided picture). It is recommended that you use a copier to make the pictures on the print out large enough to fill an 11 x 17 sized-sheet as it allows for more coloring space.

Classroom Statement

This Arts & Crafts classroom consists of reading the Walk to Emmaus story and one arts & craft project. That project is the drawing and coloring of images from the Emmaus story and then turning that picture into a puzzle as a way to show how we need to know and be familiar with all pieces of the puzzle in order to recognize/better see the Resurrected Jesus.

Step-by-Step Process of Lesson

Shepherd comes in with students

SHEPHERD ASKS “Question of the Day.”

INTRODUCE yourself

Hi, my name is ____ and I want you call me (tell the students how they may address you).

PRAY Short and simple is perfect. For example:

God, thank you for this day and for each other. We need your help. Help us to learn about you this day. Amen.

TELL

- In the story from our last session, we read about Jesus' Trial and how he was found guilty (even though he was innocent) and was crucified.
- That story happened on a Friday. The story we're going to read now happens on the Sunday after that Friday.
- In the story, we find out that even though Jesus died, he didn't stay that way. God resurrected him from the dead!
- That's what Resurrection means: To bring back from the dead.
- There's another important word that gets used in the story that I want to make sure we know what it means. The word "recognize" means to know what or whom you are seeing. For example, "I didn't *recognize* my dog in the dark hallway until I turned on the light."
- Let's see what happens in the story...

READ Luke 24:13-33 NRSV

13 Now on that same day two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened to Jesus. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but the disciples' eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And Jesus said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. 18 Then 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?" 19 Jesus 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, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But 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. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 and 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. 24 Some 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."

25 Then Jesus said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. 28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 But 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. 30 When Jesus was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; and he vanished from their sight. 32 They 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?" 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven disciples and their companions gathered together.

ASK (answers are in parentheses)

- In the very beginning of the story, what are the two disciples talking about? (about all that had happened to Jesus)
- While the two disciples are talking about Jesus, who shows up and joins them? (Jesus)
- Do the disciples know the man who joins them is Jesus? (No)
- What does Jesus talk to the two disciples about? (uses scripture to talk about who the Messiah is and what the Messiah is to do)
- After they ask Jesus to stay for the night and they are having dinner, what does Jesus do that causes the disciples to recognize Jesus? (he takes, blesses, breaks and gives the bread – this is something he did in the feeding of the thousands story and the story we call the last supper)
- Once the disciples know Jesus is with them, what does Jesus do? (disappears)
- Are the disciples concerned that Jesus disappeared? (not at all)
- What do they do once they recognize Jesus? (go back to Jerusalem to tell the original 12 disciples [minus Judas] what happened)

TELL

- Let's look at how the two disciples get to the point of being able to recognize the Resurrected Jesus.
- First, they talk about the stories of Jesus. Second, when Jesus joins them, they talk about scripture (what we would call bible stories or faith stories). Finally, they sit down to eat together and before they eat, Jesus prays a blessing for the meal and that's when the disciples recognize Jesus.
- So one thing this story tells us is that recognizing the Resurrected Jesus is like putting pieces of a puzzle together.
- The three pieces of the puzzle are 1. To know and talk about the Jesus stories, 2. To know and talk about other stories from the Bible and 3. To pray and be together.
- To help us remember these three pieces of how to recognize Resurrected Jesus, we're going to make a puzzle today that has these three things (and more) in it.

EXPLAIN Puzzle Craft Step 1

- The first thing we're going to do is take a sheet of cardstock. You can take either a blank sheet, or you can take the sheet that is printed with pictures relating to the story.
- Using these oil-based pastels (or regular crayons), either color-in the printed picture or draw your own picture.
- If you draw your own picture of the story, include Jesus, the breaking of bread, prayer, and studying the Bible. Also, feel free to use colored pencils to sketch.
- The oil-based pastels offer a more vibrant, brighter color than crayons. But they will also stain your clothes. So we're going to wear smocks today. Let's put those on before we do anything else.

DO step 1

EXPLAIN Puzzle Craft Step 2

- Now that you are done drawing/coloring in your picture, take your scissors and trim your picture so that there's not a lot of blank paper surrounding the picture.
- Now turn your paper over, so that your drawing is face-down.
- What you're going to do is make a puzzle-like pattern to cut your picture into.
 - You can make it very simple by using a ruler and drawing a grid on the back of your picture – do at least 5 rows and 5 columns.
 - Or you can make it pretty complex and make a pattern like this handout, here (see below)
 - Just remember, the pattern you draw, you'll then be cutting as well.
- Before you start cutting, if you want, number the corners of your puzzle to make it a little easier to piece together.
- Now take your scissors and cut your picture up, following the lines on the back that you just drew.

DO step 2

EXPLAIN Puzzle Craft Step 3

- Once you're done cutting, scramble your pieces into a pile.
- Now put your puzzle together. Once you succeed, feel free to trade with a friend.
- When class is done, put your puzzle in a ziplock bag to take home with you.

DO step 3

TELL (once everyone's on step 3)

- In the story that we just read, the Walk to Emmaus, the disciples do not recognize Resurrected Jesus until a number of pieces are put into place.
- The same is true with our puzzles that we just made. Others who are doing our puzzle won't recognize what it is until the pieces of the puzzle are put into place.
- The more familiar we are with the pieces of the puzzle, the easier it is for us to see the overall picture.
- The same was true for the disciples to be able to recognize Resurrected Jesus.
- They had to be familiar with the stories about Jesus, other faith stories and with each other to be able to recognize Jesus.
- And once they did recognize Jesus, they went back to Jerusalem to help the other disciples do the same things they themselves had done: Pray, be together and talk about stories of Jesus and scripture.
- When we do the same things, just like the disciples, we'll be able to better recognize Resurrected Jesus.
- And that's the good news for today!

CLEAN UP



