

April 8, 2018

## Morning Overview

**Lesson:** *Jesus Comes to His Friends*

**Lesson Objective:** To communicate to children that God always keeps His promises despite circumstances and even our inability to trust Him. God kept His greatest and best promise by sending His Son, Jesus, to rescue us from our sins.

In our lesson today, our children will learn about Jesus' appearances to His followers. These three stories show how Christ's resurrection was not the resurrection as a ghost or a zombie, but of Jesus. This was a bodily resurrection. Jesus appears several times asking His followers to touch Him to prove He is really there. Jesus also eats and asks for food to show He is truly human. All of this was to make His followers witnesses to God's power over death, God's power to raise Christ from the dead. This is central to the Christian faith, as the apostle Paul reminds us, "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied." But Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!

**Scripture:** Luke 24:13-49; John 20:19-29, 21:1-14

**Story:** Vos Children's Bible, pages 330-331; The Beginner's Bible, pages 491-495; Gospel Story Bible, pages 236-239; Jesus Story Book Bible, pages 317-323.

## 9:30am Sunday Schedule

**Opening Activity:** Hedbanz

### Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5's – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom's: 162, 121, 123, 124)
- 3's/4's – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom's: 168, 166, 165, 164, 163)

**Craft:** Doubting Thomas

**Supplies:** Cardstock sheet, Thomas face, googly eyes, heart, glue, crayons/markers

- Instructions:**
1. Glue Thomas face to left side of sheet.
  2. Glue on eyes; color if desired.
  3. Trace hand on right side of sheet.
  4. Glue heart to represent Jesus' pierced hand.



**Relay of the Day:** *Duck, Duck, Goose* - Instead of saying Duck, Duck, GOOSE, say "Fishing, Fishing, Fishing" then "There's Jesus!" when you choose the one to play tag. Pretend that the person you tag is Peter as he sees Jesus on the shore and JUMPS up and out of the boat to be the first to see Jesus!

**Snack**

## 11am Sunday Schedule

**Opening Activity:** Hedbanz

**Craft:** Feed My Sheep

**Supplies:** Paper bag, cotton balls, sheep face and 2 feet, glue, crayons/markers

- Instructions:**
1. Glue sheep face to flap of bag; color if desired.
  2. Glue feet to back of bag.
  3. Glue cotton balls to front of bag (glue to back also if desired).



**Relay of the Day:** *Duck, Duck, Goose* - Instead of saying Duck, Duck, GOOSE, say "Fishing, Fishing, Fishing" then "There's Jesus!" when you choose the one to play tag. Pretend that the person you tag is Peter as he sees Jesus on the shore and JUMPS up and out of the boat to be the first to see Jesus!

### **Story:** *Jesus Comes to His Friends*

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the transition question: Boys and girls, in our story today Jesus appears to his followers after He has risen from the dead. Remember He isn't a ghost or a zombie, but Jesus alive! How would you react if you were one of His followers? (Allow children to answer). Well let's find out how His followers reacted in our story today...
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the Vos Children's Bible, the Jesus Storybook Bible, the Beginner's Bible, or the story below to aid in telling the story. Feel free to edit and adapt to your own style. Include props and teaching aids as you see fit.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

### **Teaching Summary:**

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- For many, many years God's people expected the Promised One – a King – to come and make all things right.
- Jesus appears to his followers several times post-Resurrection. Jesus' bodily resurrection is central to our faith – His resurrection demonstrates God's power over death.
- Each time Jesus appears He greets His followers, and they are unsure whether it's Jesus or not. This is because God has not allowed them to recognize Jesus.
- Jesus talks, walks and eats with several of his followers. A ghost nor a zombie eat fish, bread, and have a conversation with other people.
- Jesus reminds His followers at the end of the story that they are His witnesses and their job is to proclaim His death and resurrection to all the nations.

## Story

### **Transition**

Boys and girls, in our story today Jesus appears to his followers after He has risen from the dead. Remember he isn't a ghost or a zombie, but Jesus alive! How would you react if you were one of His followers? (Allow children to answer). Well let's find out how His followers reacted in our story today...

### **Jesus Comes to His Friends**

After Jesus rose from the dead (remind the children about Easter) He went to visit His followers. Most of Jesus' followers were scared, so they stayed inside and locked their doors. But that did not stop Jesus from seeing them. One evening as all of Jesus' followers were together, He came and stood among them. Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you!" This shocked everyone in the room; how could Jesus come in if the doors were locked they wondered. After Jesus had spoken, He showed them His hands and His side. His followers were very happy when they saw the Lord.

But Thomas was not in the room with the followers when Jesus came. Thomas was 1 of the 12 disciples. The other followers told Thomas, "We saw the Lord." But Thomas said, "I will not believe it until I see the nail marks in his hands. And I will not believe until I put my finger where the nails were and put my hand into his side."

A week later the followers were in the house again. Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, and again Jesus came in and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here where the nails were. Look at my hands. Put your hand here in my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "You believe because you see me. Those who believe without seeing me will be truly happy."

### **Breakfast with Jesus By the Sea**

Later, Jesus showed himself to his followers by Lake Galilee. This is how it happened: Some of the followers were together. They were Simon Peter, Thomas, Nathanael, James, John and two other followers. Simon Peter said, "I am

going out to fish." The other followers said, "We will go with you." So, they went out and got into the boat. They fished that night but caught nothing.

Early the next morning Jesus stood on the shore. But the followers did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Friends, have you caught any fish?"

They answered, "No."

Jesus said, "Throw your net into the water on the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So, they did this. They caught so many fish that they could not pull the net back into the boat.

John turned and said to Peter, "It is Jesus!" When Peter heard John say this, he jumped into the water and swam to Jesus. The other followers went to shore in the boat, dragging the net full of fish. They were not very far from shore, only about 100 yards. When the followers stepped out of the boat and onto the shore, they saw a fire of hot coals. There were fish on the fire, and there was bread.

Then Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish that you caught."

Simon Peter went into the boat and pulled the net to the shore. It was full of big fish. There were 153. Even though there were so many, the net did not tear. Jesus said to them, "Come and eat." None of the followers dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them. He also gave them the fish.

This was now the third time Jesus showed himself to his followers after he was raised from death.

### **On the Road to Emmaus**

Sometime later two of Jesus' followers were going to a town named Emmaus (**pronunciation:** ee-may-us). It was about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking about everything that had happened. While they were talking, Jesus himself began walking with them. (They were not allowed to recognize Jesus.) Then Jesus said to the two followers, "What are you discussing?" The two followers stopped. Their faces were very sad. The one named Cleopas (**pronunciation:** cle-oh-pass) answered, "You must be the only one in Jerusalem who does not know what just happened there."

Jesus said to them, "What are you talking about?"

The followers said, "It is about Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet from God to all people. He said and did many powerful things. Our leaders and the leading priests gave him up to be judged and killed. They nailed him to a cross. But we were hoping that he would free the Jews. It is now the third day since this happened. And today some women, whom we are friends with, told us some amazing things. Early this morning they went to the tomb, but they did not find Jesus' body there. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels. The angels said that Jesus was alive! So, some of our friends went to the tomb, too. They found it just as the women said, but they did not see Jesus."

Then Jesus said to them, "You are foolish and slow to realize what is true. You should believe everything the prophets said. They said that Christ must suffer these things before he goes back to the Father." Then Jesus began to explain everything that had been written about himself in the Scriptures. He started with Moses, and then he talked about what all the prophets had said about him.

As Jesus and the two followers came near the town of Emmaus, Jesus acted as if he did not plan to stop there. But they begged him, "Stay with us. It is late; it is almost night." So, he went in to stay with them.

Jesus sat down with them and took some bread. He gave thanks for the food and divided it. Then he gave it to them. And then they were allowed to recognize Jesus. But when they saw who he was, he disappeared. They said to each other, “When Jesus talked to us on the road, it felt like a fire burning in us. It was exciting when he explained the true meaning of the Scriptures.”

So, the two followers got up at once and went back to Jerusalem. There they found the 11 apostles and others gathered. They were saying, “The Lord really has risen from death! He showed himself to Simon.” Then the two followers told what had happened on the road. They talked about how they recognized Jesus when he divided the bread. While the two followers were telling their story, Jesus himself stood among those gathered. He said to them, “Peace be with you.”

Everyone was afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost. But Jesus said, “Why are you upset? Why do you doubt what you see? Look at my hands and my feet. It is me! Touch my hands, my body – I am real. You can see that I have a living body; a ghost does not have a body like this.” After Jesus said this, he showed them his hands and feet. The followers were amazed and very happy. They still could not believe it. Jesus said to them, “Do you have any food here?” They gave him a piece of cooked fish. While the followers watched, Jesus took the fish and ate it.

Jesus said to them, “Remember when I was with you before? I said that everything written about me must happen—everything in the law of Moses, the books of the prophets, and the Psalms.”

Then Jesus opened their minds, so they could understand the Scriptures. He said to them, “It is written that the Christ would be killed and rise from death on the third day. You saw these things happen—you are witnesses. You must tell people to change their hearts and lives. If they do this, their sins will be forgiven. You must start at Jerusalem and preach these things in my name to all nations. Listen! My Father has promised you something; I will send it to you. But you must stay in Jerusalem until you have received that power from heaven.”

## Questions for Review

### Questions for Younger Children:

- What did Jesus come back from?
- Where did Jesus tell Thomas to put his finger?
- How did Thomas react to Jesus?
- What were the disciples doing when they saw Jesus on Lake Galilee?
- What did Jesus tell the disciples to do?
- What did Peter do when he saw it was Jesus?
- What did Jesus do with the disciples once they got to shore?
- What town were the followers going to?
- What did Jesus do in the middle of dinner in Emmaus?
- How did everyone react to Jesus’ appearing in Jerusalem?
- What did Jesus tell his followers to do at the end of the story?

### Questions for Older Children:

- What does the story tell us about God?
- What does this story tell us about God’s faithfulness?
- What does this story tell us about God’s love for us?

## Scripture Memory for April:

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. (Matthew 6:33)

## Catechism Questions (1-20)