

Jesus Appears to Disciples

Grades
1-2

WONDERING • EASTER 3 • YEAR B

LUKE 24:36B-48



What is happening in this story?

This is one story of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances to the disciples. They are confused and afraid—they think Jesus is a ghost! Jesus patiently shows them proof that he is in fact real, and convinces them that he has been raised from the dead. He then sends them on a mission to proclaim the message of repentance and forgiveness.

Why does this story matter for kids?

The disciples had lots of questions and did lots of wondering about Jesus' resurrection. Could it really be him? They had seen him die a terrible death, and now here he was, standing there before them. Jesus patiently gave them different "proofs" of his alive, resurrected self. Many of us still have questions and still wonder about things we hear in church or read in the Bible. Just like Jesus was patient with the disciples, he is patient with us as we wonder and search for the truth.

What is the lectionary connection?

We celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday, but we get to hear the stories again and again to let them soak in. This text sets a bigger context for Easter and reminds us of the longer story in which we live.

AGE LEVEL TIP

Kids this age may struggle with the concept of Jesus' resurrection. Be prepared to explain the basics: Jesus was dead, he rose from the dead, he had a body, and he was alive (no zombies here). Be honest about your own questions too. Wonder together about how God made such a miracle happen.



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Markers
- Tape
- Scissors

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Chenille stems (yellow, bent into a peace sign)
- Poster board (yellow)

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Place markers on a table. Draw a large peace sign on the poster board. Then ask kids to fill in the peace sign with Easter symbols and Easter words.

Invite kids to gather near the Wall Chart.

Form a yellow chenille stem into a peace sign. Point out today's date, season (Easter), color (yellow), and icon (butterfly). **Today, it is still Easter! Easter lasts for fifty days. Easter reminds us that Jesus is always with us. He lives even though he died.** Hold up the peace sign. **Jesus liked to greet the disciples with the word *peace*. Let's tape this peace symbol to our chart today.** Choose a kid to tape up today's symbol.

Ask kids to echo what you call out.

Alleluia. Repeat. **Jesus lives.** Repeat.

Alleluia. Repeat. **Jesus lives.** Repeat.

Al-le-lu-ia. Repeat.

Pass out leaflets and markers.

What are some things you like to share with your friends? Allow kids to respond, then hold up the leaflet.

What does this remind you of? A pizza! Who likes to

share pizza with their friends? Invite kids to decorate the pizza. On each slice, have kids write the name of a friend they could share with. **Today the disciples will learn to share some very good news with everyone they meet. We can share the good news too!** Collect their leaflets until Respond.

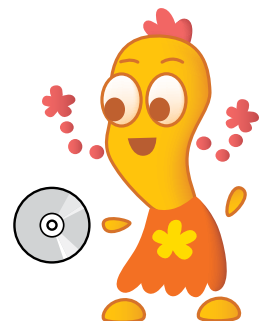
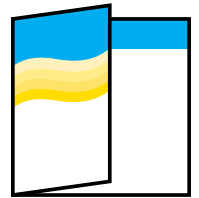
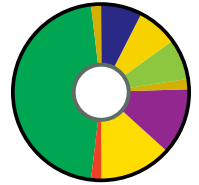
Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

How do fish and ghosts go together? Let's find out!

View Episode 9, "Fish 'n' Ambiguity," on the Whirl Year B Spring PreK–Grade 2 DVD.

Ask kids these questions about the video:

- **What is the resurrection?**
- **Who did not understand that Jesus was alive?**
- **Who helped Ada understand about the ghost?**
- **What questions do you have about the resurrection?**
- **Is it okay to believe in something and still have questions? Why or why not?**



Pass out Whirl Story Bibles to kids.

Let's find our story today! Help kids find "Not a Ghost" on page 418. Start by pointing out the graphic that shows the butterfly in the yellow circle for the Easter season. Before you read, invite kids to look to see if Jesus has changed.



Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page.

Ask these questions after you read the story:

- Who says, "Peace be with you"?
- Why do the disciples think Jesus is a ghost?
- What food did Jesus eat?
- Jesus told the disciples to share the good news. How can you share the good news?
- Who teaches you about sharing?
- How do you become better at sharing?

Play together!

Ask kids to name some simple opposites, like up and down. Then invite kids to show these opposites with their movements. After kids have had some practice identifying and acting out opposites, turn to today's text for more. **One opposite from today's story comes when "the disciples jumped in surprise, then ducked in fear"** (page 418). **What movements can we use to act that out?** Perform the movements together. Then invite kids to think of other opposites from today's story. Some ideas include: alive/ghost, alive/dead, calm/afraid, believe/wonder, and so on.

BIBLE BIT

Jesus offers the disciples peace in our story today. In John 20:21 Jesus says, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

WATCH IT AGAIN

There's a lot of talk about fish in today's video. Watch closely to see who actually eats at the fish fry. What foods do the kids in your class like and dislike?

OUR CHURCH

Create a "peace parade" during this season. Have kids line the church aisles at the end of worship, then usher the congregation out while repeating, "Peace go with you."

RESPOND 10

Pass out leaflets and markers.

Unfold and tear off leaflet square.

1. Show kids the leaflet square. **What do the letters spell?** (Forgiven) **When we are witnesses of Jesus' resurrection, we share the news that everyone is forgiven.**
2. **Fill in all the blanks so the entire square page reads FORGIVEN across each row.**
3. When kids finish writing, show them how to fold the square along the dark vertical lines. **Our square becomes an accordion when we fold it. First, fold the first dashed line on the right into or toward the square.**
4. **Fold the dotted line under or away from the square.** Continue the pattern of dashed "in" and dotted "under" until the square is completely folded.
5. **Now press your accordion flat so that the folded lines stay folded.**
6. **Hold both sides and open up your accordion. See what happens!** Allow kids to practice opening and closing their squares. **Flash your friends with forgiveness!**
7. Take forgiveness on the road to another class, surprising them by "flashing forgiveness" to everyone you see. Encourage kids to be careful not to rip their squares.

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

In our story today, Jesus showed himself to the disciples after dying on the cross. No wonder the disciples were scared! But we don't have to be afraid. Instead, we can be joyful. Jesus wanted the disciples—and wants us—to share the good news: Jesus is alive!

Pass out leaflet panels, markers, scissors, and tape.

Kids create "Peace be with you" bracelets. **Write your message in code** (e.g., PBWU) **or in words, cut bracelets out, tape them, and give some peace away!**

Send kids out.

Ask kids to repeat what you call out. **Alleluia!** Repeat. **Jesus lives!** Repeat. **Alleluia!** Repeat. **Jesus lives!** Repeat. **Al-le-lu-ia!** Repeat.

Pray together:

God, may I be your peace (*make two-finger peace symbol*)
in the world (*use the two-finger peace symbol to outline a circle in the air*).
Amen.

Thank kids for sharing the good news today. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.