

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year B – Third Sunday of Easter**  
**Lesson Plans for Older Children**

**Scripture:** Luke 24:36b-48

**Background:** Easter - the unearned gift of grace. The reflective season of “going in” that Lent provided (no matter what disciplines we undertook, nor even how well we attended to them) explodes on Easter. Of course, we cannot “figure it out.” How comforting, then, to have these scriptures, showing first how the disciples struggled to grasp what had happened and then stories of Jesus before the crucifixion, which are written in the light of the Resurrection.

As Easter people we know, as Paul said, that nothing, not even death, shall separate us from the love of God. We are people who expect life out of death. And so, in Eastertide we celebrate the wonder and prepare ourselves to take the awesome message out into the world on Pentecost.

**A Notation for this Week’s Gospel**

Words tumble from the mouths of the excited disciples as they try to convey what happened on the road to Emmaus. In mid-sentence, they hear “Peace be with you.” Jesus is in their midst. Jesus encourages them to touch him and see that it is he. As they scramble to believe what they are seeing, Jesus casually asks them if, by any chance, they have anything to eat! They have broiled fish, which is shared all around.

**Theme: Seeing Jesus**

**Before Class:** Cut simple fish shapes from construction paper for the Easter tree or Easter mobile. If you want, you can put the words “He Is Risen” on the fish. If it fits your budget (financial and time) goldfish crackers would be a fun treat for this session. You will need copies of the Easter symbol you are creating today or you can use the fish as your symbol to add to your Easter project.

**Beginning:** You could greet each child, “Hello, Easter person!” Then, ask if they have anything to share with you – anything fun happen this week? Create opportunities for the children to share.

**Opening Prayer:** Thank you, God, for this time we have together today. Thank you, that each of us, (naming each child), can be here this morning. Amen.

**The Story:** Tell the children that this story is a lot like the one we heard last week – but that this one was told to us by another person who saw something a bit different.

Two of the disciples had been walking to a town that was seven miles away. Now, seven miles is a long way to walk. (Calculate what a seven-mile walk would be that the children would understand – such as from the church all the way to the supermarket.) And not only did they walk all the way to that town, but they met Jesus there, and were so excited that they turned around and raced all the seven miles back to Jerusalem, where their friends were.

“Hey, you guys,” they were excitedly telling their friends, “Jesus has risen, and we saw him!” And just as they were waving their arms in the air to describe what had happened, in walked Jesus!

Jesus said, “Peace be with you.” And then, when Jesus saw that his friends were kind of scared, he said, “Here, touch me, and you will know that it is really me.” Then, since Jesus also had walked all those seven miles, he said: “Have you got anything here to eat?” The disciples scrambled and found some broiled fish to feed the hungry Jesus. So they all sat down and had some fish.

**Activity:** Create a pretend seven-mile walk. If the weather and your setting permits, take a walk outside with the children. Scope out a pretend seven-mile course. (All the way down to the end of the block, for instance. Invite the children to walk to the destination, pretending they are sad because Jesus is not here anymore. Then, when you arrive at your destination, pretend to be seeing Jesus, touching Jesus, and now sure that Jesus is right here with us. Then return, skipping, jumping, and walking quickly. If going outside is not going to work for you, see if it would be possible to have a trek inside your building -- or at least around the room.

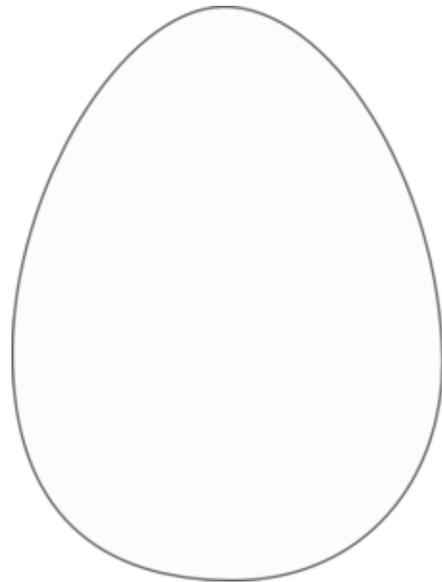
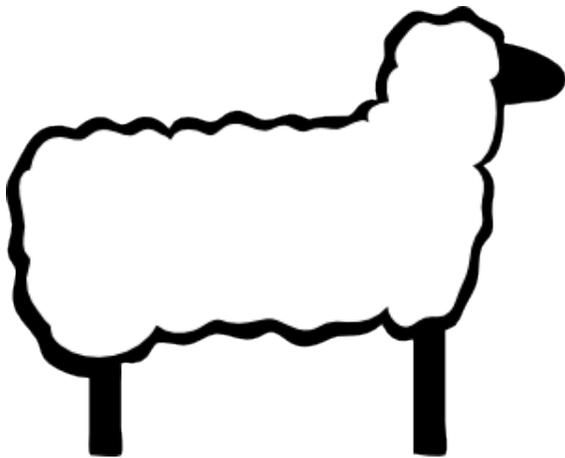
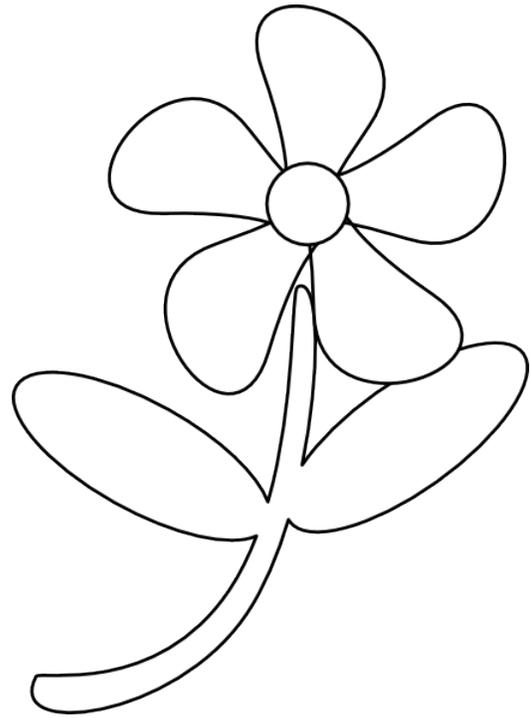
When you return, tell them you are hungry and you wonder if there is any fish to eat. Many children would not be thrilled with eating fish, so assure them they will like THESE fish, and pass out the goldfish crackers.

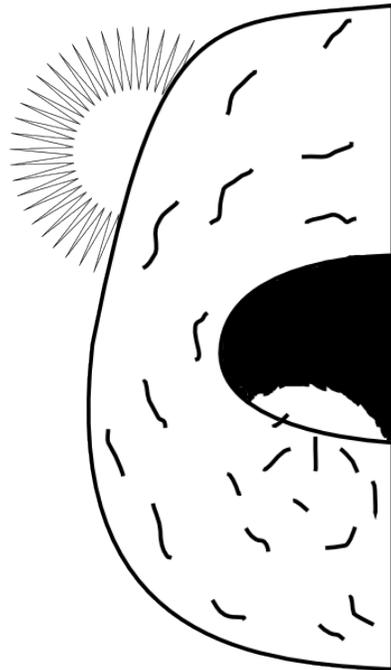
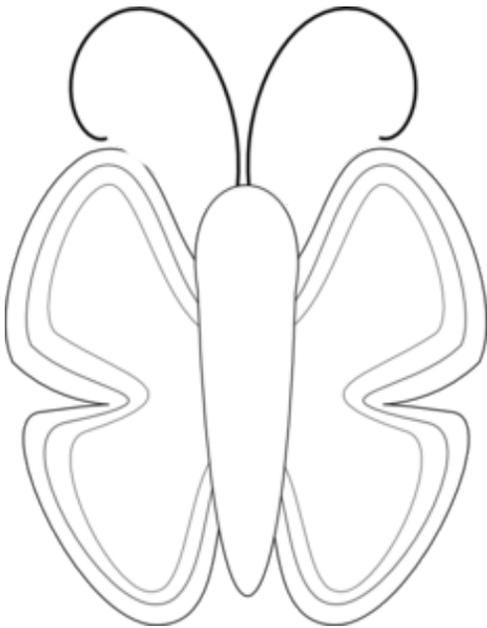
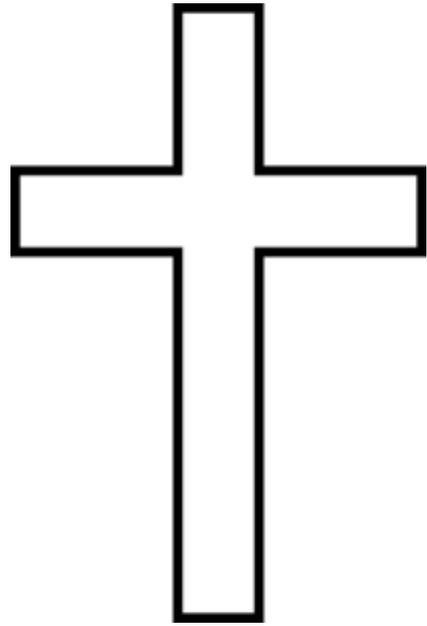
**Getting Closure:** Continue creating the Easter project you have chosen for the season (the tree or the mobile – see Easter 2). Choose one of the symbols below or use a fish to help illustrate the story today. Give the children time to decorate it using the materials you have for them. If time permits, let each child make a symbol for your Easter tree or mobile and one to take home to put on the refrigerator. (If you have the magnet strips, a square secured to each symbol going home will make it possible to post it on the home refrigerator.)

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, Jesus, for giving us your peace. Thank you for our time together today. Amen.

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**A Notation for this Week’s Gospel**

Words tumble from the mouths of the excited disciples as they try to convey what happened on the road to Emmaus. In mid-sentence, they hear “Peace be with you.” Jesus is in their midst. Jesus encourages them to touch him and see that it is he. As they scramble to believe what they are seeing, Jesus casually asks them if, by any chance, they have anything to eat! They have broiled fish, which is shared all around.

**Theme: Seeing Jesus**

**Before Class:** You will need Bibles or copies of the scripture, copies of the Book of Common Prayer, and a ball of yarn or string. Figure out a 7-mile distance in your community that the children will recognize. (For example, the distance between the church and someplace they will know.) If possible, you can have an online map pulled up to help the children see all the things that are within seven miles.

**Beginning:** Greet the children and catch up on what they choose to share with the class that is going on in their lives. Anyone on a baseball team? School play? Then tell them that seven miles has something to do with the story we will have today. Be sure they all know the seven-mile stretch you have figured out. What would they go by if they walked the seven miles. (A grocery store? Someone’s house?) Have on hand the ball of yarn or string.

**Opening Prayer:** Thank you, God, for this time we have together and for the stories about Jesus that have come down through the years to us. Amen.

**The Story: Luke 24:36b-48** Tell the children that this is what happened just before the story we will read today. Two of the disciples had walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a town seven miles from Jerusalem. They were sad and talking to each other about all that had happened. While they were talking together, another man started walking along with them who didn't appear to know any of the stuff that had happened. The disciples were filling him in on all the details when they got to their town. The man started to go on but they invited him to stay with them and have some

supper. At supper, the man took the bread, blessed it, and suddenly they realized it was Jesus. And just as they recognized him – he disappeared. Well, they simply had to tell the others what had happened, so they raced off – walking the seven miles back to Jerusalem where the others were. Now, here is our story for today:

Invite two people to read the passage, each reading a paragraph.

**Reflection Questions:**

- Can anyone remember what Jesus said to the disciples last week? (“Peace be with you.”)
- What does Jesus say today? (“Peace be with you.”)
- What do you see in this passage to make you believe that Jesus was patient with his friends? (verses 39-40.)
- I wonder why Jesus asked if there was “anything here to eat?”
- The last time Jesus had eaten a meal with his disciples was the night before he was crucified. Does anyone remember what Jesus told them to do at that meal? (Eat the bread, drink the wine, in remembrance of Jesus.)
- How might that last meal have helped them recognize Jesus?
- How are we invited to remember Jesus when we receive the bread and wine during the Eucharist? (We are the Body of Christ, and Christ is the Cup of Salvation.)

**Activity:** In your classroom plot out a scale model of a seven-mile walk. This does not have to be a straight line, but can twist and turn, just like our roads. Set the scene in your own town. Cut a length of yarn and arbitrarily decide it is “one mile.” Then, have the children mark a “seven-mile” course around the room. Make estimates as to where landmarks would go (the stop sign, the pizza place, the bank, whatever is on the real seven-mile course.) When the children have finished constructing the course, ask for volunteers to be the two disciples who go dejectedly out of Jerusalem. Ask for another volunteer to be Jesus who shows up at the end of the seven miles. Invite the two “disciples” to retrace the course racing back to Jerusalem and have Jesus get there right after they do.

**Getting Closure:** Tell the children that prayer is part of the work we are given to do and that this Easter season you will be looking together at different people and situations we will be praying about.

**Closing Prayer.** Pass out copies of The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and ask the children to turn to page 383. At the top of the page there are groups to pray for listed. These types of prayers are called intercessory prayers. A definition can be found on page 857 of the BCP. Look at the second group on the list. Last week we prayed for the Universal Church. Today, we pray for the Nation and all in authority. Who would be included in that group? (The President, Congress, the Supreme Court, the governor, the mayor, police officers, teachers, and the principal at a school.)

What would the children think is the “mission” of these authorities? (Justice and peace, serving the common good, promoting the dignity and freedom of every person are some of the things we pray for.)

Invite the children to pray for our leaders – and pray in their own words. Add “Amen” at the end.

**Luke 24:36b-48**

While the disciples were telling how they had seen Jesus risen from the dead, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you-- that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

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**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year B – Third Sunday of Easter**  
**Lesson Plans for Adults**

**Scripture: Luke 24:36b-48**

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**Theme: Seeing Jesus**

**Before Class:** You will need Bibles or copies of the scripture. If you want, they could be two different translations.

**Beginning:** Greet each other and invite class members to request prayers for people or situations on their hearts so the class can pray with them. Make a note so you can be sure these requests are included in your times of prayer together today. You could then offer to the class this thought: the people who put together the lectionary (the choice of readings for each Sunday) did so almost 40 years ago. Yet, amid all the chaos in our lives, we have today, for the second Sunday in a row, a passage that proclaims: “Peace be with you.”

**Opening Prayer:** Thank you, God, for knowing our longing for peace in our own lives and in the world. (Insert prayer requests.) We thank you for the words of reassurance we have in Scripture. Amen.

**The Scripture: Luke 24:36b-48** Ask for a volunteer to read this fairly short passage from Luke. Allow a bit of silence, and then ask for a different person to read the passage again possibly from a different translation.

**Reflection Questions:**

- I wonder what stood out for you as you listened today?
- Notice the 14-mile round trip – on foot – at the end of a full day for both of the disciples and also for Jesus. When did the disciples know they were in the presence of Jesus? (At the breaking of the bread.)
- In today's passage, what are elements of gentleness, patience, and full-fledged humanity? (The way Jesus gently enters into their conversation, his patience as they need to touch to see, and his question, "Have you anything here to eat?")
- As they ate broiled fish together/what do you suppose they remembered from the last meal they had all together? What had Jesus set up for them at that meal? (The Jewish Seder, which was later transformed into the Eucharist.)
- I wonder when we notice Jesus in our midst?
- Where do we feel Jesus present in our lives today?

**Getting Closure:** We have looked at people who were struggling to understand over 2,000 years ago. What does this passage have to say to us – here – today? Where do we see Jesus being gentle and patient with us? How do we work through our fears and our doubts?

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you, God, for sending us Jesus to make it possible to do the work you give us to do. Amen.

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