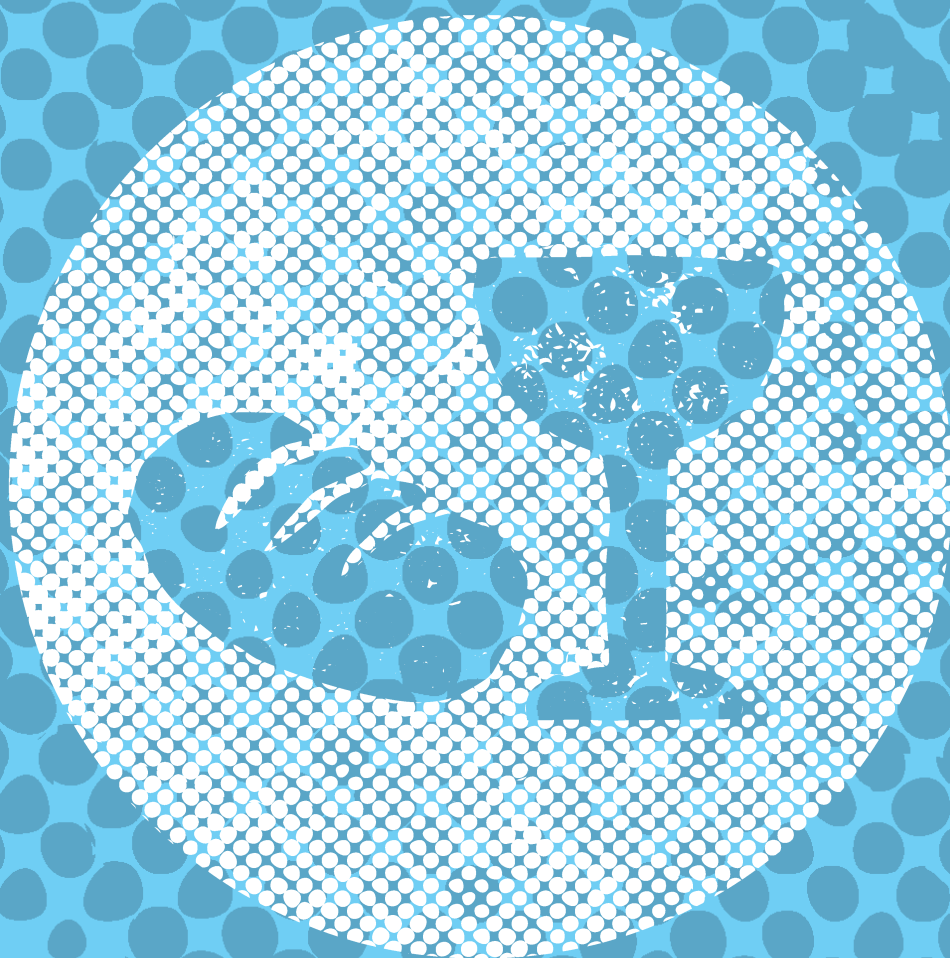


Jesus Is with Us

GRADES 2-3

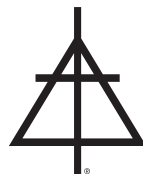


We are grateful to Lisa VanEngen for her work in developing *Jesus Is with Us*. Lisa is a freelance writer who makes her home in Holland, Michigan.

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Christian Reformed Church
**Faith Formation
Ministries**

GRADES 2-3

Jesus Is with Us

SCRIPTURE

Luke 22:7-20; 24:13-35

FOCUS

The gift of the Lord's Supper is something that helps us to continue to see Jesus.

FAITH NURTURE GOALS

- Tell how Jesus' breaking of the bread helped the two people from Emmaus to recognize Jesus.
- Understand that Jesus is with us when we participate in the Lord's Supper.
- Give thanks to Jesus for this gift that helps us to see him.

REFLECTION: GETTING INTO THE STORY

Jesus and his disciples entered Jerusalem at Passover. It was a time when God's people were in town to celebrate the feast recognizing their deliverance from slavery in Egypt long ago. God asked his people to sacrifice a lamb at every Passover Feast, just as they had done at the first Passover, to remember that the blood of an unblemished lamb, put on the doorposts of the homes of God's people, protected them (Ex. 12). And just as the blood of the Passover lamb protected God's people from death in Egypt, the blood of the Lamb of God, Jesus, would protect from destruction all who would trust in him. Jesus became the perfect sacrifice to atone for the sins of humanity.

The disciples on the Emmaus road had hoped that Jesus would restore the kingdom of Israel (Luke 24:21; see Acts 1:6). Those hopes were dashed when Jesus died on the cross. Jesus' followers hadn't really understood his purpose. They hadn't connected the dots between Jesus' sacrifice and the Passover. They hadn't recognized the power of the blood of the Lamb of God who had come to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29), to deliver us from the slavery of sin. They were confused and sad and trying to make sense of everything they had seen and heard.

The Lord's Supper helped them make sense of it. The Lord's Supper points back to the Passover and forward to the coming kingdom of God. It testifies that the cross was not the end. When Jesus broke the bread and gave it to his disciples at the table, "their eyes were opened and they recognized him" (Luke 24:31). Likewise, the Lord's Supper helps each of us so that we will recognize the presence of Jesus.

Celebrating the Lord's Supper is a demonstration of trust, trust that just as God has been true to his promises, God continues to be true; that just as God prepares a place for us each time we celebrate the Lord's Supper, God has prepared a place for us at the table in the kingdom of heaven. Because of the blood of the Lamb of God, we can recognize God at work when we gather around the table for the Lord's Supper.

WONDERING








- How did the disciples, gathered at the table for the first Lord's Supper (Luke 22), feel as they celebrated it with Jesus?
- What did it feel like to be gathered as friends at the table in Emmaus and suddenly recognize Jesus (Luke 24)?

TEACHING











- In Luke 24:28, we read that Jesus gave the impression he was going to continue on the road past Emmaus. But at the disciples’ urging, Jesus stayed with them. Because of their hospitality to a stranger, they were able to share the Lord’s Supper with him and eventually recognize him. This small detail echoes other parts of Scripture that remind us of the power of hospitality (Matt. 25:35-40; Heb. 13:2). When we extend hospitality to others, sharing God’s love for us all, we are actually serving the Lord, who grants us benefits far beyond the help and care we offer.
- The disciples at the table were likely still discouraged as they sat down to eat, but by welcoming Jesus, they found encouragement. It is significant that it wasn’t when they first met him on the road, or while they were talking with him, or when he sat down, that they recognized him. It was when “he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and began to give it to them” that they recognized him (Luke 24:30; see Luke 22:19). Just as Christ, giving these disciples the bread, revealed who he was to them, so through our giving to others we see Jesus revealed to us.

—Rev. Shannon Jammal-Hollemans

A NOTE ABOUT LEARNING STYLES

In the chart below and beside each Easy Extra activity, you will find one or more of the following descriptions: **Aa** Word Smart,  People Smart,  Music Smart,  Number Smart,  Earth Smart,  Self Smart,  Body Smart, and  Picture Smart—and an icon beside each one. Those descriptions and icons refer to “multiple intelligences,” a term developed by Dr. Howard Gardiner to describe the different ways in which people learn. We’ve used them here to indicate to you which learning style(s) each step/activity taps into the most. For example, some people are visual learners, others are musical, some learn best when they are physically engaged, some are a combination of several “smarts,” and so on. For more information on each of those learning styles along with a fun quiz you can give your students (and one you can take yourself!), visit <http://dwell.faithalive.org/downloads>, click on “Topics for Leaders,” and open the “Learning Styles Quiz.”

SESSION AT A GLANCE

Steps	Time	Activities	Session-Specific Materials	Multiple Intelligences
Gathering for God’s Story	10-15	Optical Illusions	<input type="checkbox"/> Optical illusions, reproducible pages 11-14	   Aa
Entering the Story	5	Story	<input type="checkbox"/> Bible <input type="checkbox"/> Sentence strips, reproducible page 15	Aa 
Living into the Story	10	Wondering	<input type="checkbox"/> Sticky notes <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils <input type="checkbox"/> Story symbols, reproducible pages 16-17 <input type="checkbox"/> Masking tape or sticky tack	Aa   
Living Out of the Story	15	Show and Tell	<input type="checkbox"/> Cardstock or construction paper, one light-colored page per person and several pages in a contrasting color <input type="checkbox"/> “Jesus” optical illusion pattern, reproducible page 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Gluesticks <input type="checkbox"/> Markers or coloring pencils <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors <input type="checkbox"/> Dear Family letter, reproducible page 19 (print or email one per child)	Aa   

Step 1 Gathering for God's Story

Welcome each child by name as you gather. Spend a few moments getting caught up with one another by asking how the week went, if anyone is looking forward to something in the coming week, and so on. Look for opportunities to affirm that Jesus was with each one of the children in the past week and will go with them into the coming week as well. Include in your opening prayer the things your children have shared with you, along with any other prayer requests they might have.

Tell your group how excited you are to spend time with them today and to learn together about the gift of the Lord's Supper. But first—some optical illusions!

One by one, show the children the optical illusions from reproducible pages 11-14 and invite the kids to tell you what they see. If they see only one image on each page, ask questions that will push them a bit to question their first impressions. Comment that in the story they are about to hear there were two friends who also needed time to really "see" what was happening.

TIP

Your opening conversation provides you with a wonderful faith modeling opportunity. Tell your kids about a time when you sensed that Jesus was with you in the past week. And be sure to ask them to tell you how they could tell that Jesus was with them too!

TIP

"Open Our Eyes, Lord" (*Sing With Me* songbook, www.faithaliveresources.org) would be a wonderful song to sing with your group during this session—perhaps as part of your opening prayer.

Step 2 Entering the Story

Before the session begins . . .

- bookmark your Bible to Luke 24:13-35.
- cut apart the sentence strips (reproducible page 15).

Open your Bible and show the children where the story is found. Explain that the part of God's story that they'll hear today is from the New Testament and that you will need their help to tell it. Pass out the sentence strips and give each child a moment to quietly read over their sentence. Explain that when you give them the signal during the story, you'd like each person to read what is on their strip (in order, according to the numbers on the strips).

NOTE

Only one of Jesus' followers on the road to Emmaus—Cleopas—is named in Scripture. Many biblical scholars believe that the other person may have been the wife of Cleopas, but no one knows for sure.

The story follows:

On the third day after Jesus had been sentenced to death and was crucified, Cleopas and another follower of Jesus were walking from the city of Jerusalem to a place called Emmaus. As they walked, they talked about all the amazing things that had been happening. Jesus had been crucified and buried. Then, just that morning some women had gone to the tomb and had discovered that his body was gone. An angel told them Jesus was alive! But how could that be?

As they were talking, someone else joined them. It was someone they didn't recognize. "What are you two discussing so seriously as you're walking along?" the man asked. The friends were shocked. How could this man not have heard about what had happened? So they told him the story.

(Invite your readers to begin.)

TIP

If you have fewer than eight children in your group, you can combine some of the sentence strips and have some children read more than one. If you have more than eight children, invite two volunteer readers to take turns reading the strips (alternating as though they were the two friends from Emmaus.)

TIP

The best way to tell a story is from the heart, maintaining eye contact with your audience and adding expression with your voice and face. Prepare by reading this story aloud once each day during the week leading up to the day you plan to tell it.

1. Jesus, our friend and teacher, was crucified and buried.
2. We thought he was the one God would send to save us.
3. This morning something amazing happened!
4. Some women went to the tomb where Jesus was buried.
5. They saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.
6. Jesus' body was gone!
7. An angel told them Jesus was alive!
8. We don't understand what is happening.

The man looked at them. "You are so foolish! Why are you finding it so hard to believe what you've been taught—that what the prophets said would happen has happened?" Then, as they walked toward Emmaus, the man reminded them of all the places in the Bible that talked about God's plan for sending the Savior.

Before they knew it, they had arrived at their town. Cleopas invited the man to join them for supper. When they sat down to eat, the man did four things: he took the bread; he gave thanks to God for it; he broke the bread; and he began to give it to them. At that very moment, they recognized the man. It was Jesus! It had been him all along! But before they could say a word, Jesus disappeared.

Together the two friends raced back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples the wonderful news: Jesus was alive!

Step 3 Living Into the Story

Hang the four story symbols (reproducible pages 16-17) on your wall. Pass each child a pencil and some sticky notes and, working with one symbol at a time, give the children a few moments to write down their response to your question about that part of the story. (See below.) Once everyone is ready, invite the children to come forward and stick their responses to the wall. Affirm their ideas.

Story symbol: two people walking

Write down a word that describes how the two followers of Jesus might have felt as they began their long walk to Emmaus and talked about all that had happened over the past three days.

Story symbol: three people walking

Write a word that describes how they felt when a stranger joined them and asked what they were talking so seriously about.

Story symbol: scroll

This one will take some extra thought! Write down a word that describes how the followers might have felt when the stranger showed them all the places in the Bible that talked about God's plan for sending the Savior.

Story symbol: Lord's Supper

Write a word that describes how the followers might have felt when they saw that the man who had joined them was actually Jesus.

Follow up with questions like these to help your children connect what Jesus' followers "saw" as he broke the bread and gave it to them with what we "see" during the Lord's Supper.

- I wonder why the two followers didn't recognize Jesus when he first joined them on the road?
- I wonder why they recognized Jesus when he broke the bread and gave it to them?
- What thoughts might have been racing through the followers' heads when they realized it was Jesus—and then he disappeared?
- Does what Jesus did—taking the bread, thanking God for it, breaking it, and serving it—remind you of anything else?

Affirm that during the Last Supper with his disciples before he died, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, and served it, telling them, “Do this in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19)—and Jesus' actions are repeated during worship when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. Just as Jesus' actions helped his followers see that Jesus was alive and with them, we're reminded during the Lord's Supper that Jesus is alive and with us.

Step 4 Living Out of the Story

Before the session begins . . .

- print on light-colored cardstock one copy of reproducible page 18 for each child and for yourself.
- cut half-inch strips from a contrasting color of cardstock, and then cut the strips into the following pieces for each child and for yourself:
 - six 3" (7.5 cm) pieces
 - six ¾" (1.8 cm) pieces
 - two 2½" (6.25 cm) pieces
 - one 2" (5 cm) piece
- make a sample to show the children.

Tell the kids you have another optical illusion for them. Hold up the sample “Jesus” visual you've made in advance and invite them to look closely at it. Can they see what it says?

Invite everyone to make their own copy of the “Jesus” optical illusion as a way to remember that the Lord's Supper helps us “see” Jesus by assuring us that he is alive and with us.

Distribute the paper pieces you've prepared in advance and show the kids how to glue them in place using the pattern on the page. When finished, the children may color the bread and chalice, if desired.

Tell the kids that their work is a “Show and Tell”—as they work, they should think about the person to whom they can *show* the optical illusion and to whom they can *tell* what it helps them remember about the Lord's Supper.

When finished, gather the group together to close in a prayer like the following:

Dear Jesus:

Thank you for the gift of the Lord's Supper, as a way to help us remember that we can be sure you are alive and with us. Help us to tell others this good news too!

We love you.

Amen.

TIP

If some of your kids have difficulty seeing the word *Jesus*, draw a horizontal line across the top and bottom edges of the letters so that the word becomes more obvious.

TIP

Sit down and join your group as they make their “Jesus” optical illusions. Working alongside the children leads to better conversations than when you're standing and observing them!

TIP

Consider allowing a student, if they are willing, to lead the closing prayer.

If you are sending the Dear Family letter home to each family rather than emailing it, be sure to send it with the children along with these parting words: **Remember, Jesus is always with you, [name]!**

EASY EXTRAS

1. A Closer Look *This activity can be used in place of the activity in Step 1: Gathering for God's Story.*

TIME 5 minutes	
 Number Smart  Picture Smart	SUPPLIES <input type="checkbox"/> Pictures (from magazines, calendars, the Internet), paper, scissors




Before you begin . . .

- Gather a variety of pictures from magazines, calendars, and the Internet. Look for images that are easily recognizable—except when all but a small section is hidden.
- Cut a one-inch (2.5 cm) square opening into a sheet of paper large enough to cover the largest picture.

Place the paper with the square opening cut into it over a picture so that only a portion of the picture shows. Show the group. Ask if anyone can describe the picture for you after seeing just one square inch of the whole. After everyone has had a chance to guess, show them the picture. Repeat with the remaining pictures.

Tell your group that today we are going to talk about a time when some friends of Jesus didn't recognize him. They didn't know him until he showed them more—just as you needed to show the children the whole picture for them to know what it was.

2. Road to Emmaus Art Walk *This activity can be used before telling the story in Step 2.*

TIME 5-8 minutes	
 Picture Smart  Body Smart  Self Smart	SUPPLIES <input type="checkbox"/> Footsteps (reproducible page 22)—print and cut out as many as needed for your space <input type="checkbox"/> Various artists' representations of the life and death of Christ (see suggestions below) <input type="checkbox"/> Sticky tack or masking tape <input type="checkbox"/> Cardstock <input type="checkbox"/> Music player and worship music <input type="checkbox"/> Small notebooks and pencils (optional)

Create an art walk that leads your group through a timeline of Jesus' life from his birth to his conversation with two followers on the road to Emmaus.

Print each work of art. Frame each work by attaching it to a larger sheet of card-stock. Hang the pictures in order, leaving space between each one. Arrange the reproducible footprints to make a path for the children to follow. Set a contemplative tone by playing worship music quietly in the background as the children walk from one work to another and reflect on the images. *Optional:* Help kids remain focused by providing each one with a small notebook and pencil and by encouraging them to jot down any observations or wonderings they might have as they consider each work of art.

Ideas for art that you might print and display for your art walk:

Picture 1: *Nativity Scene* by Gerard Van Honthorst <http://tinyurl.com/zj8nul6>

Picture 2: *The Baptism of Christ* by Piero della Francesca <http://tinyurl.com/zh27agn>

Picture 3: (Jesus' Ministry) *Jesus Multiplies the Loaves and Fish* from Jesus Mafa, Cameroon <http://tinyurl.com/hqdfwnv>

Picture 4: *The Last Supper* by Leonardo da Vinci <http://tinyurl.com/jjuydrg>

Picture 5: (Jesus' Trial) *Ecce Homo* ("Behold the man") by Mihaly Munkacsy <http://tinyurl.com/hb55aev>

Picture 6: *The Crucifixion* from Jesus Mafa, Cameroon <http://tiny.cc/uofkay>




Picture 7: *The Three Marys at the Tomb* by Peter von Cornelius <http://tinyurl.com/jhwr5ur>

Picture 8: *Der Gang nach Emmaus* ("The Road to Emmaus") by Robert Zund <http://tinyurl.com/hvu63gm>

TIP

This activity can provide a wonderful introduction to today's story. If you have access to your church sanctuary during this session, consider placing the art walk there and ending the footsteps at the communion table, where you can gather your group around you and tell the story.





3. How Many?

TIME 10 minutes	
 Number Smart  People Smart  Word Smart	SUPPLIES <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils <input type="checkbox"/> <i>How Many?</i> activity sheet, reproducible page 20, one per pair of children (if desired)

Challenge your group (working in pairs, if desired) to complete the *How Many?* activity sheet.

Answers: 1. 14,000; 2. 28; 3. 1 hour, 15 minutes

4. Board Game

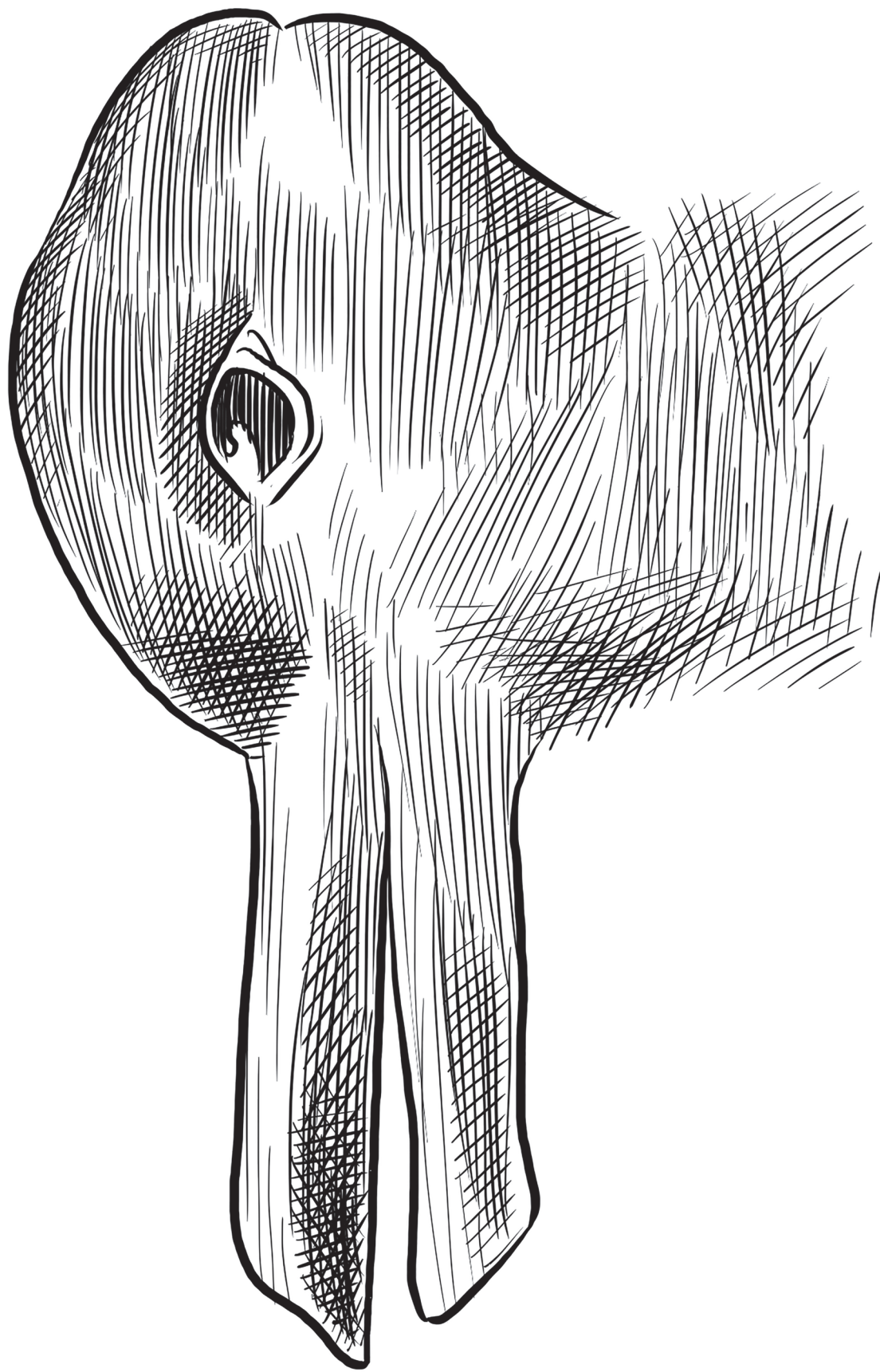
TIME 15 minutes	
 Number Smart  Self Smart  Picture Smart  People Smart	SUPPLIES <input type="checkbox"/> White cardstock or a light-colored file folder, one per person <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils, colored markers <input type="checkbox"/> Game pieces: 1 die per person and movers (coins, buttons, or paper circles)

Provide supplies for each child to make a game board featuring today's story. Get them started with these three rules:

1. Players must start in Jerusalem and travel to Emmaus.
2. When players land on Emmaus, they must race back to Jerusalem by adding 2 to the count of every roll of the die.
3. First player to return to Jerusalem and shout, "Jesus is alive!" wins.

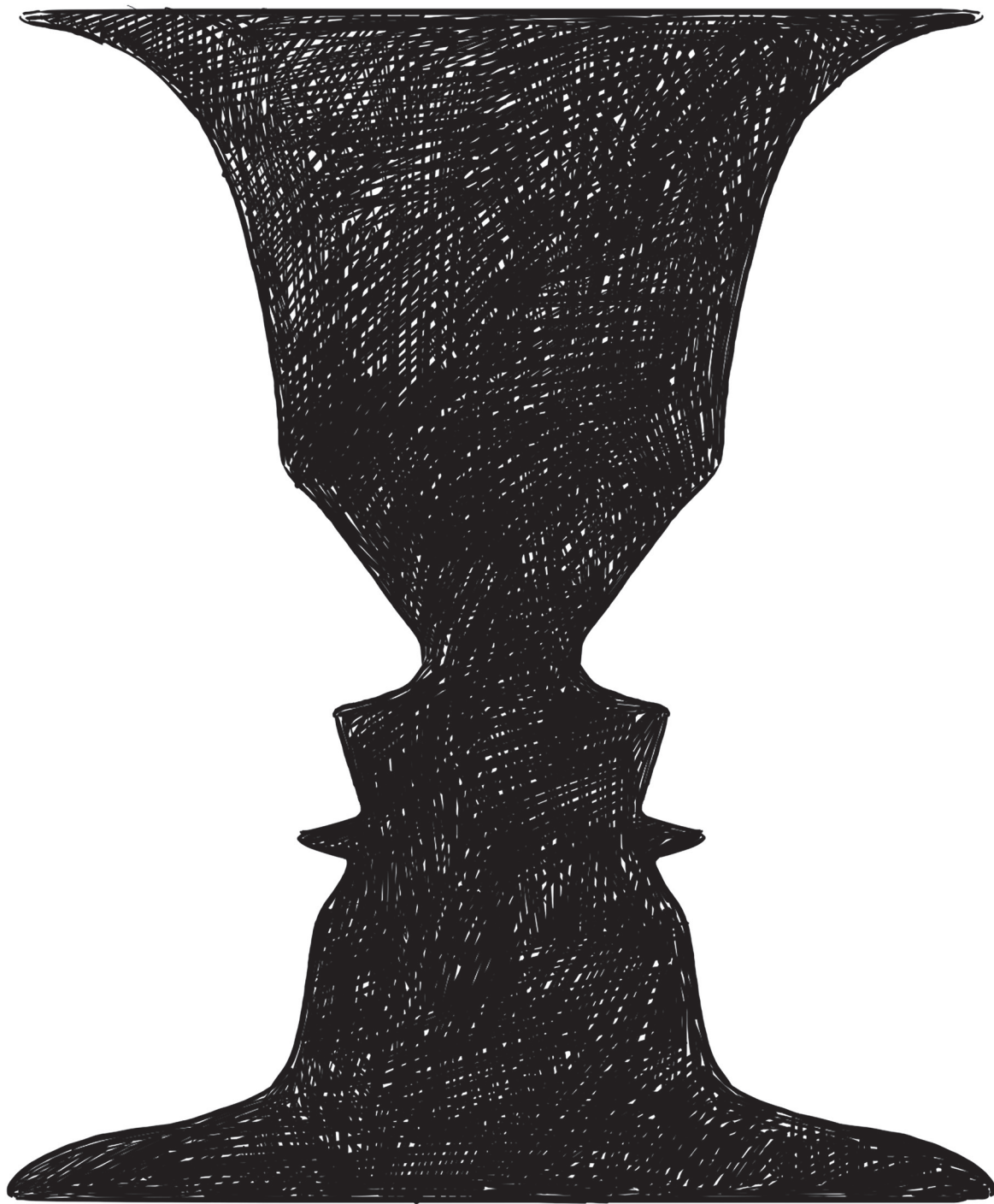
TIP

This idea comes from *God's Big Story* card #135, "On the Road to Emmaus," published by Faith Alive Christian Resources. In addition to being a great family faith formation tool, *God's Big Story* cards contain easy ideas you can use in a children's ministry setting. Find out more at <http://www.faithaliveresources.org/Products/037040/gods-big-story-cards.aspx>.









1

Jesus, our friend and teacher, was crucified and buried.

2

We thought he was the one God would send to save us.

3

This morning something amazing happened!

4

Some women went to the tomb where Jesus was buried.

5

They saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.

6

Jesus' body was gone!

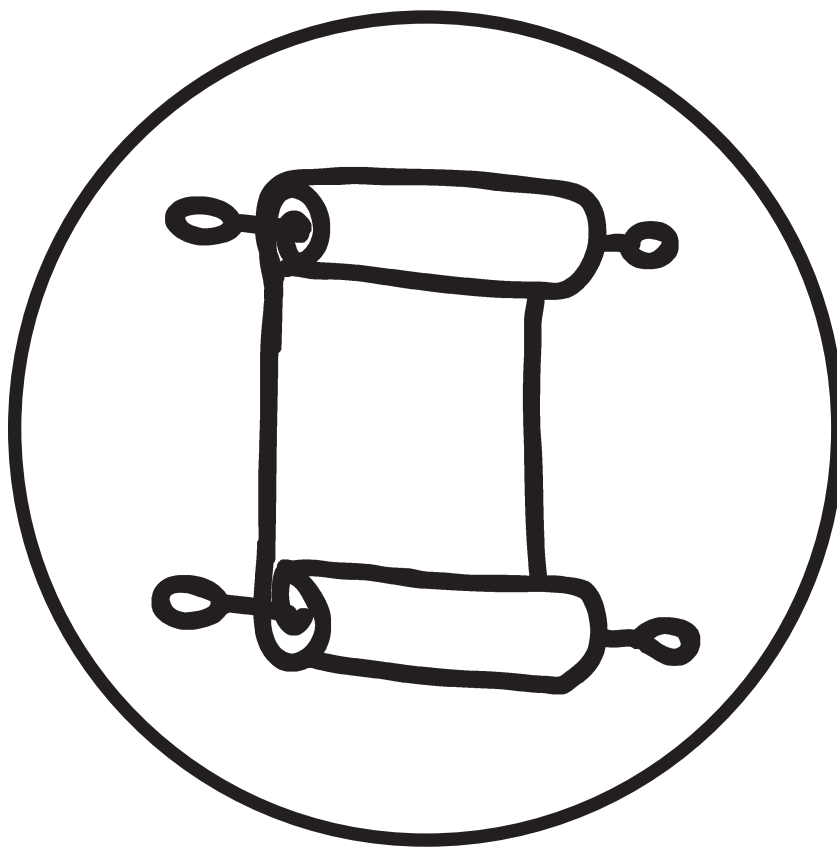
7

An angel told them Jesus was alive!

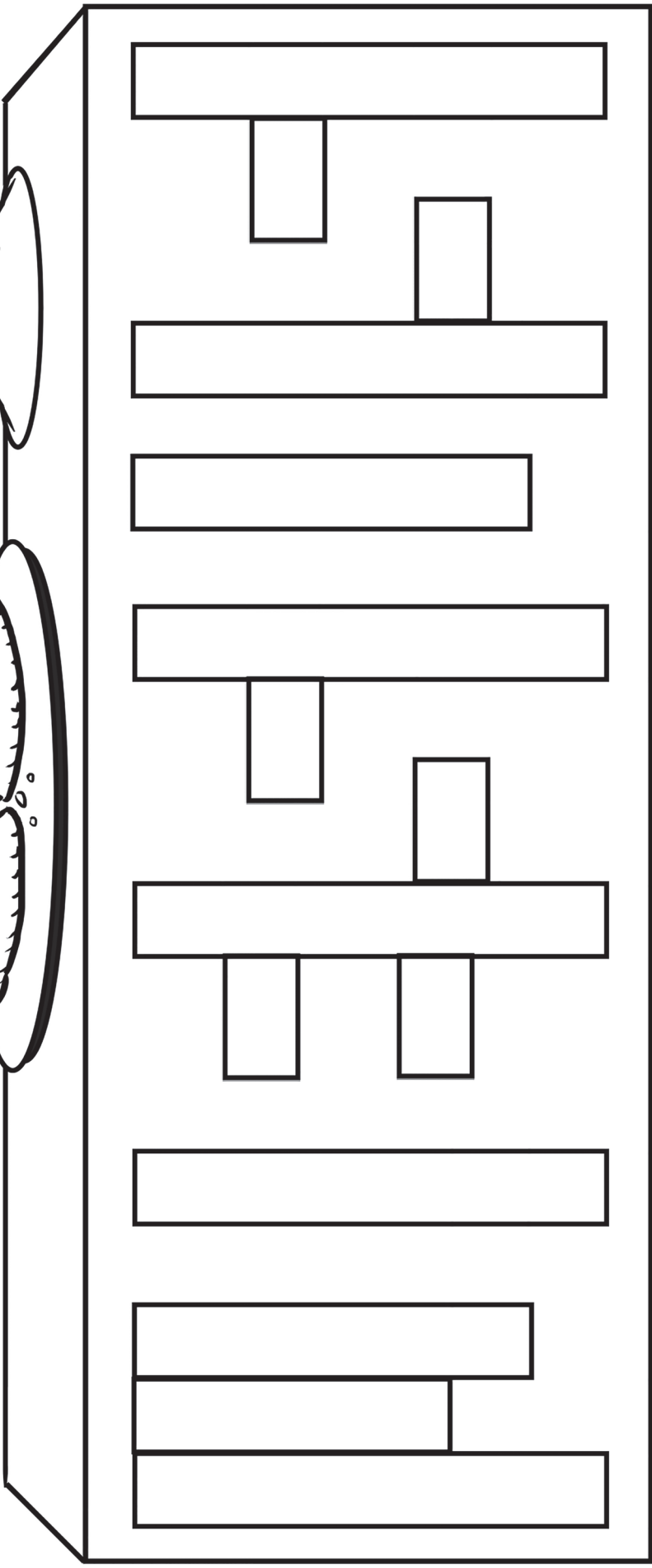
8

We don't understand what is happening.





Jesus is with us!



Dear Family,

Today your child learned how two followers of Jesus recognized Jesus in the breaking and serving of the bread after walking with him to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). We talked about how, during the Lord's Supper, we are also assured that Jesus is alive and with us. What a wonderful gift!

We enjoyed working with optical illusions as a way to connect the idea of "seeing," and we wondered about why and how Jesus' followers didn't see and then did see that Jesus was with them. Your child is bringing home an optical illusion also. Invite your child to show you what we made and to tell you what this helps us remember about the Lord's Supper.

For more ideas on how to have a conversation with your child about the Lord's Supper, visit Welcoming Children to the Lord's Supper at <http://www.crcna.org/FaithFormation/toolkits/welcoming-children-lords-supper>. In addition to conversation starters on that website you'll also find a bookmark you can print off and place in your Bible as a way to prepare for the Lord's Supper together. We encourage you to check it out today!

Sincerely,

How Many?

Hey kids! Are you up for a challenge? Answer each of the “How many?” questions below.

1. When the travelers met Jesus on the road to Emmaus, they were about 7 miles from the city of Jerusalem. You take about 2,000 steps per mile. How many footsteps did the travelers take with Jesus?

$$2,000 + 2,000 + 2,000 + 2,000 + 2,000 + 2,000 + 2,000 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

or

$$2,000 \text{ times } 7 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

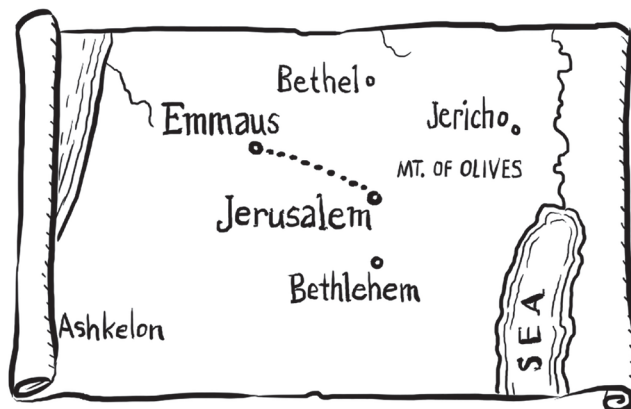
2. Four times around a track is one mile. How many times around the track would seven miles be?

$$4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

or

$$4 \text{ times } 7 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

3. The followers raced back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples the good news about Jesus. If they left Emmaus at 6:05 p.m. and arrived in Jerusalem at 7:20 p.m., how long did it take them to get to Jerusalem? $\underline{\hspace{2cm}}$



4. Jesus was on the road to Emmaus. Jesus is with you every day too!
Name 10 places Jesus is with you.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

