

Children's Message for April 26th, 2020

Object: A simple puzzle like a preschool puzzle with around 10 pieces.

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35 (NRSV)

The Walk to Emmaus

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[a] from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.[b] 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 He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth,[c] 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.[d] 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 he 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[e] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he 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 he 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 him; and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us[f] 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 and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Message

(Put all of the pieces face up except for one which should be set off to the side. Start to put the puzzle together, but leave out one piece. Once the puzzle is together act confused and sad about the missing piece.)

On no! I'm missing a piece! I thought they were all here! Well I guess I'll just throw it away, if I can't find the missing piece. What? You say it's over here? I don't think so. Really? O wait! You're right, there is the missing piece! I don't know why I didn't see it, but there it is. Now the puzzle is complete. Thanks! This reminds me of our gospel story today. The story happens on Easter and Jesus' friends are walking away from Jerusalem when they meet a stranger on the road. They start talking and they find out that the stranger has no idea about what just happened in Jerusalem. The stranger doesn't know about Jesus and about him being killed or buried. So they tell the stranger all about it. Here's the fun part of the story, the stranger was Jesus! He was walking with his friends and they didn't even know that it was him. They were so sad and worried that they couldn't see Jesus walking with them. Just like me with the puzzle piece, I was so upset that it was missing that I didn't even want to look for it. They didn't know

that they were with Jesus until they sat down to eat and Jesus broke bread and poured wine. Then they suddenly recognized him. A missing puzzle piece is not really a big deal, is it? But sometimes we can be so sad and upset that we forget to look for Jesus. We know that when this happens Jesus is alive and among us, so we should always be looking for Jesus, and we should always be looking for people who need our love and care.

Prayer

Jesus, we sometimes forget that you are here with us, we forget to look for you in the people around us, and we forget to be loving to everyone we meet. Help us to see the good in the world and your love for everyone we meet. Amen.

Optional Activity

If weather permits have your children take turns using binoculars to see things far away that they have never seen or noticed before.

Sources: faithformationjourneys.org and sermons4kids.com