

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM

Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 34

The Walk to Emmaus; Jesus Appears to His Disciples; Ascension (Luke 24:13-53)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. If our hearts are fixed on worldly things, we will be unable to see the truth.
- B. We must study and believe the Scriptures as preparation for receiving and understanding the heavenly doctrines.
- C. The post-resurrection appearances of the Lord and His ascension taught the apostles two things: that He was always near them, whether they could see Him or not, and that He was God Himself.

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce the Story
 - 1. Who were the first to learn that the Lord had risen from the dead? (Mary Magdalene and the other Mary) These women saw the angel who told them to tell the good news to the disciples. Then the two Marys saw Jesus, and He said to tell the disciples to go to Galilee, and they would see Him there.
 - 2. Today's lesson is the last one we have about the Lord's life on earth. Our reading from the Word is longer than usual, but lots of interesting things happen in it that make it interesting.
 - 3. The two disciples in our story for today were not two of the Lord's chosen twelve, but they were men who had believed in and followed the Lord. They were walking on the road to a village called Emmaus (em-MA-us), and they were talking about the strange and marvelous news that they had heard that very morning about Jesus' empty tomb.
- B. Tell/Read the Story
 - 1. Read aloud Luke 24:13-53. Please be sure to explain unusual phrases and difficult words. You might also recap the story line occasionally in order to keep the children's attention.
- C. Ideas to Discuss
 - 1. At the beginning of our reading, where were the two disciples going? (Emmaus) What were they talking about? (The things which had happened: the crucifixion, Jesus' rising from the dead, the angel, and so on.)
 - 2. Who joined them while they traveled? (Jesus) Did they recognize Him? (No)

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3. Jesus asked them what they were talking about and why they were sad. What did they tell Him? (That the chief priests and rulers had had Jesus crucified, and that some women had seen angels at the empty tomb who said Jesus was alive)
4. What did Jesus say to them? (“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!” And He explained all the things in the Scriptures— the Old Testament— about Himself.)
5. What was Jesus doing when the two disciples finally recognized Him? (Blessing and breaking bread to give to them) What happened when they recognized Him? (He vanished.)
6. Where did the two disciples go right away, even though it was late, and what did they do there? (They went to Jerusalem, and they told the eleven disciples that they had seen the risen Lord.)
7. What unusual thing happened while they were talking? (Jesus appeared.) Were His disciples glad to see Him? (Not at first. They were afraid and thought they had seen a spirit; but then they were happy.)
8. How did Jesus convince them of who He was? (By showing them His hands and feet and letting them touch Him, and by eating food)
9. After Jesus talked with the apostles for a while and taught them more. He led them to Bethany, the town where Mary, Martha, and Lazarus lived. What happened there? (Jesus was carried up into heaven as He blessed them. This is called “the ascension.” Ascension means rising up.)

D. Further Ideas

1. Jesus talked with His disciples about the Scriptures (the Old Testament) and what some of their hidden, spiritual meaning is. The Word says, “He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend [understand] the Scriptures.” Why do you think He did this? (Because He wanted them to realize how important it is to study and believe the Word, and He wants us to study and believe it, too.)
2. Jesus showed the disciples that the Old Testament stories (creation, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph in Egypt, *etc.*) are all really about Him. As you get older and come to understand some of the hidden meanings in those stories, you will be able to understand and to love the Lord more and more. The Lord has given us the Old Testament, the New Testament, and the Writings so we can learn about Him and love Him, and so we can be good people who serve the Lord.

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III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Angel so bright, in garments snowy white," FIRST SONGS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN, p. 49.
2. "Morn of Joy and morn of praise!" HYMNAL #218 (verse 1).
3. "When very early in the dawn," HYMNAL #217 (verse 1).
4. "Easter," LORI'S SONGS I, Side 1 (13th song).

B. Activities

C. Project

1. The Lord, the King of Heaven and Earth:
 - a. On 12"X18" white paper (optional: trim it to 11" X 17", or a bit smaller), children can draw an outline of the Lord. Encourage them to put in facial detail and to fill the page with His bigness (to show that He is with us everywhere).
 - b. Have bits of lace, gold/silver/red cord, sequins, stars, and the like for them to glue on as adornment of His kingly garments.
 - c. If you have trimmed the paper to 11" X 17", mount the whole sheet on a 12" X 18" sheet of red construction paper. (Glitter adds a nice touch but is messy. Perhaps the teacher can sprinkle glitter onto places where the children have spread glue.)
 - d. An alternative to mounting the whole sheet of white paper would be to cut out around the figure of the Lord and mount just that onto the red background. An aura of glitter could be added around Him, perhaps in radiating lines (the Sun of heaven), or it could be just around His head.
 - e. Encourage the children's ideas and creativity. There's no one right way to envision the Lord!
2. The Lord Ascending
 - a. The children could do the above project but add some of Jesus' followers at the base of the picture. The followers can watch as Jesus ascends into heaven. These followers could be drawn figures or torn paper figures.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Tasteful pictures of the ascension

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V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's BIBLE STUDY NOTES, Vol. 5, "The Walk to Emmaus" (Luke 24:15-53), pp. 350-363
- B. THE SOWER, Vol. V, Luke 24:1-35 and Luke 24:36-53