



WEEK 4

PREK-1ST LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

Jesus is always with me.

THE BIBLE

The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

WELCOME TIME

ACTIVITY | Walk the Line

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before group time, use masking tape to mark a path around the room. Be sure to include curvy areas as well as straight lines. Make some dotted lines for kids to jump or hop on. If your group is large, make two paths side by side. Encourage the kids to follow the marked path while you play music.

ACTIVITY | Animal Charades

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, prepare cards with a different animal on each card (see week four printable). Ask for volunteers to draw a card and then act like that animal while the rest of the kids try to guess which animal they are portraying. If no one volunteers, act out the animals yourself.
- **In today's story, two disciples were walking and someone joined them, but just like we had a hard time knowing what each animal was, they had a hard time knowing who had joined them.**
 - **TODDLER HACK:** Pull out a card and act out the animal. Once someone has guessed what the animal is, invite all the children to pretend to be that animal.

TEACHING TIME

THE BIG IDEA | Jesus is always with me.

- Our story today happens when two people were walking along the road talking about Jesus. Let's all walk around the room with a buddy and tell each other the Big Idea: **Jesus is always with me!**



VIDEO | Level Up, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's preschool [teaching video](#).*

BIBLE STORY | Luke 24:13-35

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Enlist someone with the gift of storytelling to tell the story. The storyteller can be dressed in a Biblical costume, or just use a walking stick as a prop.*
- Hi there, kids. My name is Cleopas and I want to tell you about the most exciting thing that happened to my friend and me. You see, we were walking along the road, heading to the town named Emmaus. We were sad because we missed Jesus.
- Suddenly, a stranger started walking next to us. "What are you talking about?" the stranger asked us. My friend and I were so surprised. Everyone was talking about Jesus these days! How could this stranger not know?
- So, my friend and I told the stranger all about Jesus. We told the stranger about all the wonderful things Jesus had done and all the things Jesus had taught us. But sadly, some people didn't like what Jesus was teaching so they punished Jesus—even though Jesus didn't do anything wrong! They put Jesus on a cross and then, Jesus died. A few days later, some of our friends went to visit where Jesus' body was... but Jesus wasn't there! But an angel was there, and told my friends that Jesus is alive. More of our friends went back to the tomb and found the same thing — Jesus was gone!
- We had just finished telling the story when we arrived at our final stop: Emmaus. It was getting dark so we invited the stranger, our new friend, to stay with us. When we arrived at the place we were staying and sat down to eat, the stranger took the bread, broke it in half, and blessed it. Suddenly, we knew who the stranger was! This stranger, who had been walking and talking with us, was none other than our old friend, Jesus! And then Jesus disappeared. My friend and I were so amazed! It was really Jesus! And guess what? Jesus is never truly gone — **Jesus is always with us!**

ACTIVITY | Walking Sticks

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the kids arrive, find enough sticks for each child to have one, or buy dowels. Provide materials for decorating the sticks: Washi tape, electrical tape, paint, etc.*
- Cleopas probably had a walking stick while he was walking to Emmaus. I can imagine that whenever he used that stick again, he would remember Jesus walking and talking with them.
- Let's make our own walking sticks. Whenever you use your walking stick, you can remember, "**Jesus is always with me.**"
 - **TODDLER HACK:** *Use shorter sticks (2 to 3 ft. long) and let the toddlers decorate them with stickers.*

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask the kids to hold their new walking sticks in their hands while they pray. Afterward, ask them to walk around the room with their walking sticks and say the Big Idea together: "Jesus is always with me!"*
- Dear God, thank You for coming to walk among us. As we use these sticks, help us to remember You are always with us.



DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Traveling Snack

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pack individual snacks in small, paper bags. Trail mix is a good option as today's story happens while the disciples are walking along the road (be mindful of allergies). Instruct each kid to walk to the front to get their snack and carry it back to their place without peeking to see what's inside the bag.
- Now, you can all look inside the bag to see your snack! It was there all along, but you didn't know what it was, just like when the two friends didn't know they were walking and talking with Jesus.

ACTIVITY | Talking with Friends

- **INSTRUCTIONS:**
- Pretend you are the friends remembering what happened on the road to Emmaus. Remember the story by telling each other about meeting the stranger and what happened next. Think about these questions as you tell the story:
- **What were you talking about?**
- **What did the stranger ask you?**
- **How did you feel while you were talking to the stranger?**
- **What did you do when you got to Emmaus?**
- **What was the big surprise?**
- **How did that make you feel?**

ACTIVITY | Craft Stick Questions

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the kids arrive, write the following questions on craft sticks and place them inside a can. Ask the kids to take turns pulling out a stick and handing it to you. Ask the question to the entire group.
 - **Have you ever been sad?**
 - **What do you do when you are sad?**
 - **What kinds of things make you feel better when you are sad?**
 - **How can Jesus make you feel better?**
- The two friends learned Jesus was still by their side, even when they thought he was gone. What can we remember from this story?
- **Jesus is always with me!**

MEMORY VERSE | Hebrews 12:2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print multiple copies of the footprint printable from this week. Place them on the floor in a path. Ask the kids to walk along the path of footprints, saying the words of the verse as they do.

PLAY TIME



ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *While the kids color, use this time to remind the kids of today's Bible story, the Big Idea, and the memory verse.*

ACTIVITY | Jigsaw Puzzles

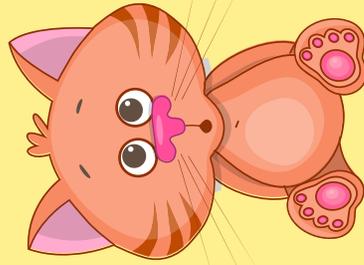
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Find some simple puzzles (eight to twenty pieces), preferably puzzles about Jesus. Place a different puzzle on each table but set the box aside so the kids cannot see it. After they have been working on the puzzle for a while, you can bring the box out to help them solve it.*
- The two friends did not see the stranger walking and talking with them was Jesus. Sometimes, it is hard to see something when you are only looking at pieces. Work together to solve these puzzles. **Can you tell what the puzzles are without looking at the box?**
 - **TODDLER HACK:** *Use toddler puzzles, which should have 10 or fewer individual pieces, preferably with knobs to make it easier for them to put the pieces in the correct place.*

ACTIVITY | Eye Spy Bottles

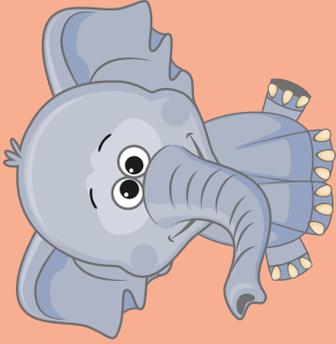
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use the same Eye Spy Bottles from last week. You might replace some of the items or just add one or two new ones.*
 - Even though some of these items are hidden from our view, they have been in the bottle the whole time! Even though I can't see Jesus, **Jesus is always with me!** Jesus is always with you!
-



DOG



CAT



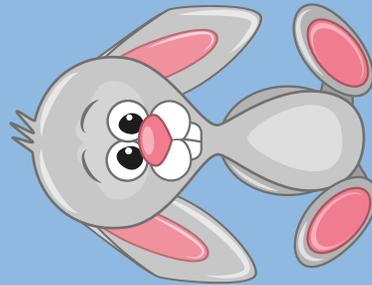
ELEPHANT



MONKEY



DINOSAUR



RABBIT



FROG



BIRD



FISH



TURTLE



WEEK 4

2nd-5th Grade LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

Jesus is always with me.

THE BIBLE

The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35;
(Psalm 139: 7-10)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Mystery Cube

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Put a bunch of random items you have lying around into a shoebox (To enhance the "Level Up!" theme, you could use these Super Mario themed [boxes](#)). Ask one kid volunteer to come up and look into the box for five seconds. Then, remove one item from the box, and see if they can figure out what's missing. Repeat this as many times as you want with different kid volunteers. In the last round, show the box to the whole group, then pretend to take out something (but don't), and have the kids try to guess what's "missing."
- **How were you able to figure out what was missing?**
- **Why was the last round so hard?** It's hard to find something that's not missing at all!

ACTIVITY | Hidden Object

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Depending on the size of your group, do this activity all together or break into smaller groups. Print or project a hidden pictures image such as [this one](#). Find the hidden objects in the pictures.
- Sometimes, something is right in front of us and we don't see it! That's kind of like Jesus, right? We don't see Jesus, but we know Jesus is around!
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Show preteens the images above and challenge them to create their own real-life versions. Have them create a pile of seemingly random objects or a scene that looks completely ordinary with objects hidden in



LEVEL UP | WEEK 4 ELEMENTARY LESSON

plain sight. Have them take a picture of this scene and share it as a printed image or a slide and have the rest of the group find the hidden images by providing a list of things to find in each photo.

QUESTION | What's Everywhere?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the kids these questions and let them answer out loud.
- **Can anyone name something that is everywhere?** (Allow for variety of answers: e.g., glitter, water, dust, air, bugs, germs, etc.)
- Even things we think are everywhere are not actually everywhere! Even oxygen – there's no oxygen in outer space! Only God is everywhere and is with us right now!

THE BIG IDEA | Jesus is always with me.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print each word out on a piece of card stock paper. Ask five kids to come up front and give each one a word (in the wrong order.) Then, have the audience (or choose just one kid) to put them in the correct order. When it's in the correct order, everyone can shout out the Big Idea together: "Jesus is always with me!"

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

VIDEO | Level Up, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#).

BIBLE STORY | Luke 24:13-34

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Luke 24:13-34.
- So, Jesus' two friends were talking about what had happened in the past week, just like we have been learning this month. Jesus, who was no doubt the coolest person ever, had taught them so much about God, and showed that Jesus was, in fact, the son of God! But they were sad because they thought Jesus was gone for good.
- But then, Jesus walks right up to the two friends and talks with them as they walk. Jesus is with them along the entire walk and they didn't even recognize Jesus! It was only when they stopped for the evening and ate together did they realize it had been Jesus the entire time!
- This is also true today. Even though we can't see Jesus, Jesus is always with us. Jesus talks to us through our church teachers. Jesus shows love to us whenever we get a hug or when we do something kind for someone else. When we are sad, like Jesus' friends were on the road to Emmaus, Jesus is right there next to us and gives us comfort. No matter what the situation is, **Jesus is always with me (and you)!**
 - **PRETEEN HACK:** Using Luke 24:13-34 as the script, have a mini theater production with preteens as the key players. One person can be the narrator and read most of the text. Then pick one preteen to be Jesus and two to be the disciples. Have each person act out what the narrator describes, speaking their parts by them reading the text when it applies.



OBJECT LESSON | Deluxe Coins

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show students a coin (or to tie in to the theme, a [Super Mario coin](#)).
- In some video games, we collect coins. They can make you go faster, and sometimes, they can even unlock new items. However, you don't usually see the coins you collect building up in the character's pocket as they go. Usually, you trust they are there, and know what button to press when you need them.
- Just like this, we can trust Jesus is with us, and we can count on Jesus even when we can't see him.
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Some kids with special needs might already be familiar with the Token System (or this might be a good opportunity to introduce it). You can use the coin concept to reinforce positive behaviors. Say, "Every time I see a student sitting well, listening quietly, participating in discussion, or being kind, I am going to collect a coin and put it in this box/jar. Once this jar is filled, I am going to prepare a reward for everyone in the class." Each time you deposit a coin, let students know the specific reason why.

QUESTION | Things That Exist, Even Though You Can't See Them

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask kids to contemplate and respond to this question: What are some things you haven't seen or can't see, but you know exist? (e.g., another country, other planets in space, animals who live deep in the ocean, etc.)
- The list is endless. **Even though you can't see these things, how do you know they exist?** You can read about them, or listen to others who have seen them.
- The same is true of Jesus! Jesus never leaves us. You can talk to Jesus anytime, anywhere. Jesus is always with you.

SCRIPTURE | Psalm 139:7-10

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Psalm 139:7-10.
- **Where can we go where Jesus can't find us?** That's right — nowhere! This Bible verse tells us that no matter where we go, Jesus is always with us.
- **What does verse 10 mean?** Did you know the phrase, "right hand" appears more than a hundred times in the Bible? Because most people are right-handed, the right hand usually is stronger and more skilled. So, the verse tells us God's strength and power are with us always, and that we are important to God!

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

ACTIVITY | Recognize

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into two groups and place them on opposite sides of a large sheet or blanket (Ask another leader or older kid volunteer to help hold the sheet up). Each team selects one person to stand directly in front of the blanket. Count to three, then drop the sheet. The first person to yell out the other person's name wins! Repeat this as many times as you want.
- **Even though you could see the other person right in front of you, it took a moment to call out their name, right?** Let's not hesitate even a millisecond to call on Jesus because Jesus is always there!



ACTIVITY | Hot or Cold

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask one kid to stand with his/her back to the group with eyes closed. Ask another kid to hide/move an object already in the room somewhere else. Ask the kid to open their eyes when ready and begin to look for the hidden item. As they move throughout the room, tell them if they are getting colder (moving away from the object) or warmer (getting closer to the object). Repeat this activity as time allows.
- When you spend a lot of time with someone, you get to know them very well. Well, it makes sense, then, that Jesus knows everything about us because Jesus is always with us! And even though we can't see Jesus, we don't have to worry He's too far away.

PRAYER

- Jesus, thank You so much for reminding us each and every day that You are always with us and will never leave us.
 - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** If your students with disabilities need a more simplified version, help them make up their own prayers with words they can say. Guide them with opening phrases like, "Jesus, thank you for. . ." and/or "Help me with. . ." and encourage students to use their communication device (Augmentative and Alternative Communication, or AAC) to say the prayer.

MEMORY VERSE | Hebrews 12:2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** This activity can be done with a whiteboard or even a large piece of paper. Ask a volunteer to write the first word of the memory verse on the board. Then, they can pass the chalk to another person, and so on, until the group finishes the entire verse!

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- In today's Bible story, who came up to the two men as they were walking? Did they recognize this person?
- What did they talk about as they walked to Emmaus?
- When did they realize they were with Jesus?
- Read Luke 24:31. How do you think they felt when they suddenly realized they were with Jesus the whole time?
- Describe a time when you felt lonely even though there were other people around you.
- How do you feel knowing Jesus is always with you?
- Why do you think Jesus is always with us?



ACTIVITY | Draw it Out

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Place a large poster board with about eight to ten kids around it. If your group is larger, you can tape several boards up on the walls or have kids get in groups and give one poster board to each group and several colored pencils or markers.*
- **Draw or write about times when you really need to know Jesus is with you.** Maybe it's at a particular place, or when you're feeling a certain emotion. As you draw/write these things, remind yourself Jesus is indeed there with you at those times!

