



Family Craft & Activity Pack

Aimed at families with Children
but fun for all ages!

WEEK 6

EASTER 3 Year A

Jesus meets us in the broken bread
(Road to Emmaus — Luke 24)

The Walk to Emmaus — Luke 24. 13-35 (NRSV)

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles 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.

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?"

He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, 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. 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 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 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.

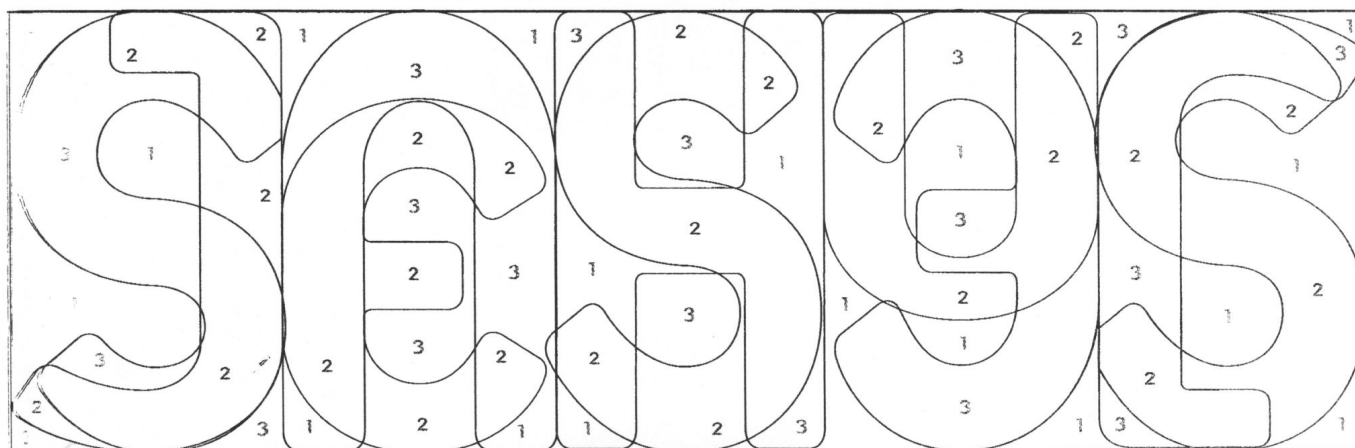


EASTER 3 — YEAR A

Jesus appears to his disciples and they recognise him in the breaking of the bread! Alleluia!

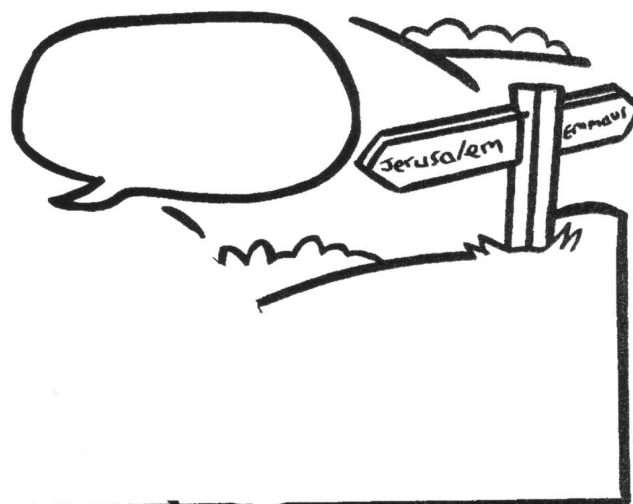


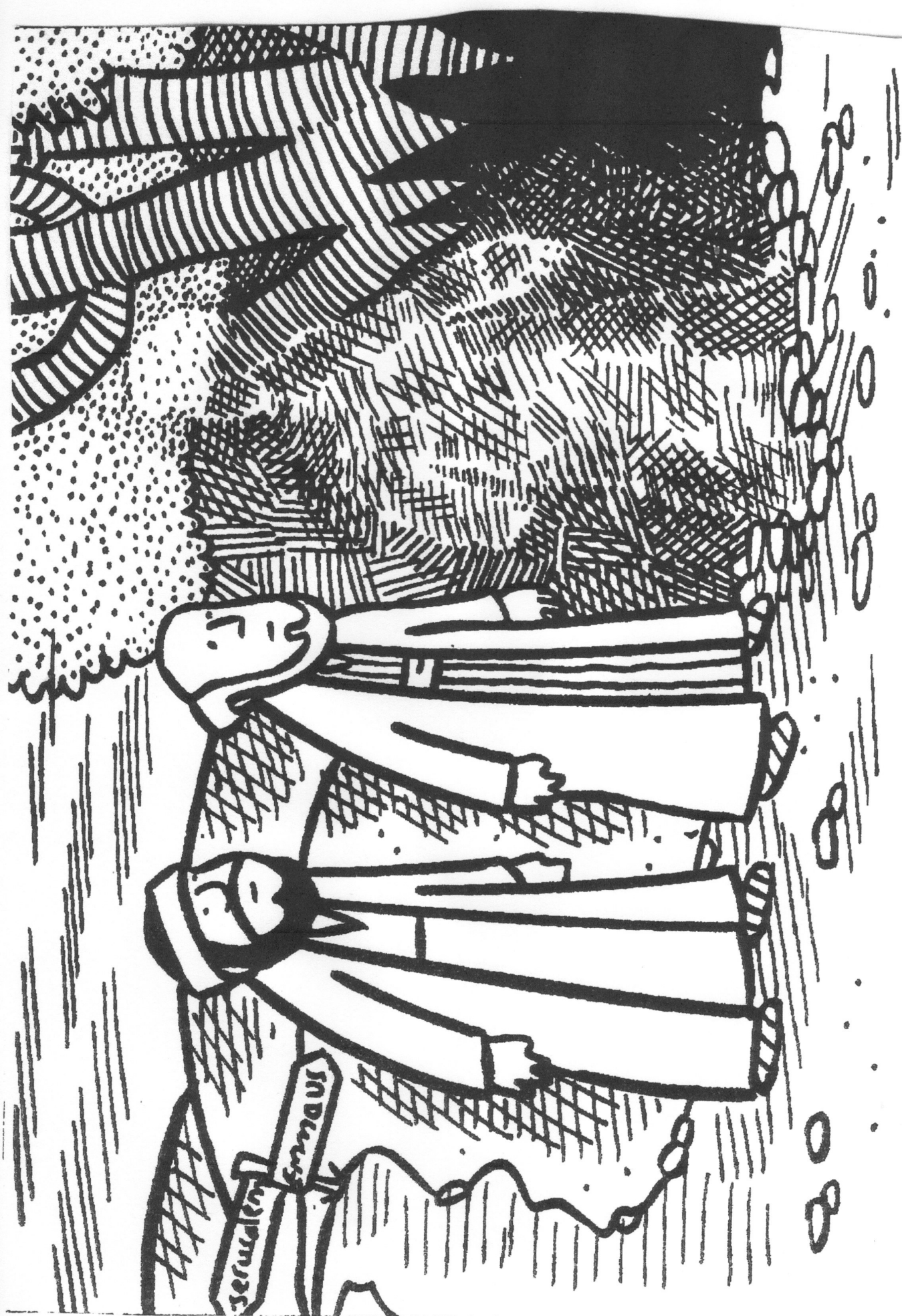
1. Put a circle around Jesus when you find him in each of these pictures.



2. Colour the picture according to the key, to find Jesus in it. 1= red, 2=gold or yellow, 3=blue

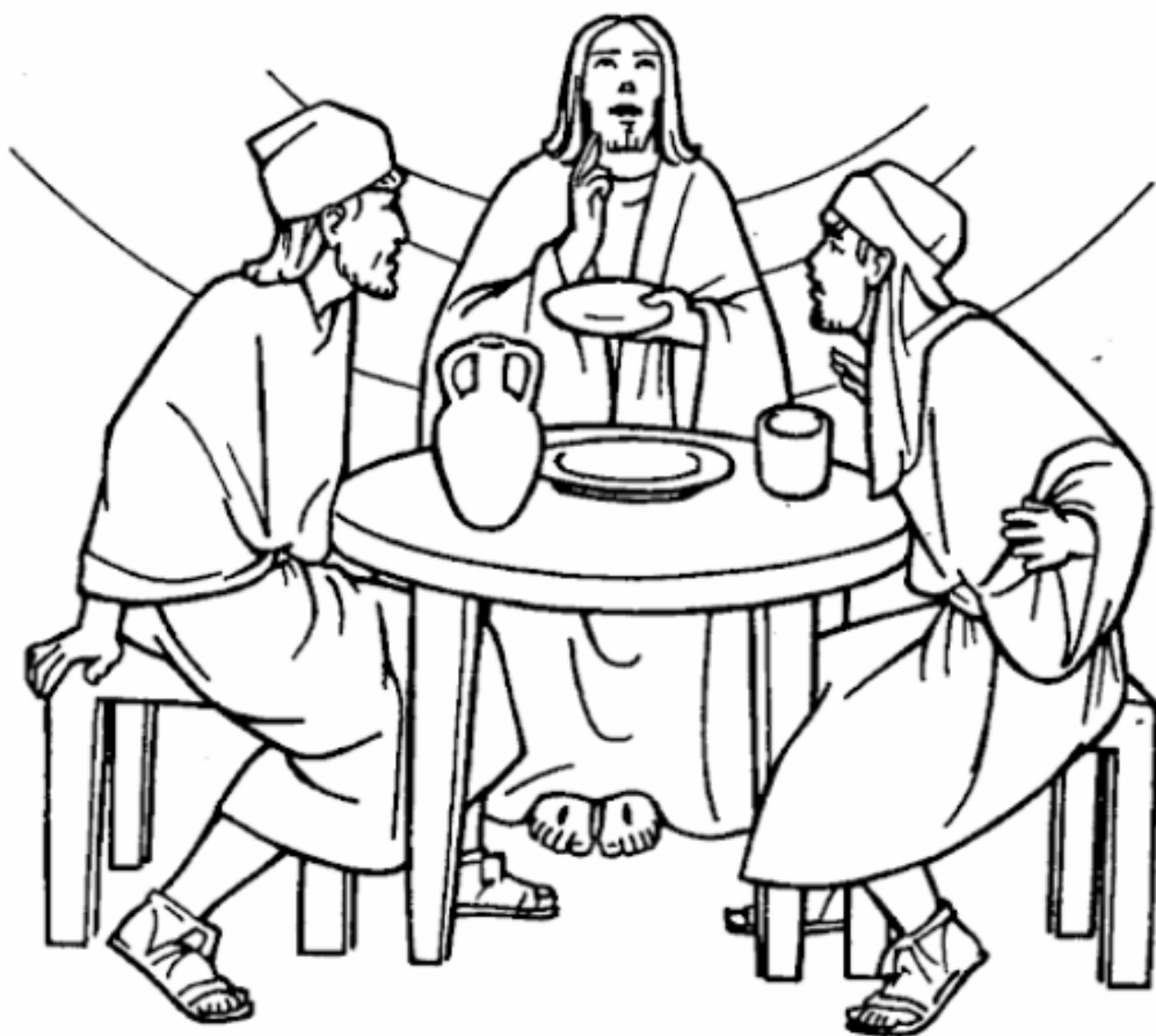
3. Draw in the two disciples hurrying back to Jerusalem. Write in the speech bubbles some of the things they might have been saying to each other.





FILL-IN-THE-GAPS

They recognise Jesus in the breaking of the bread. (Luke 24. 28-32)



As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "S _ _ _ with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So, J _ _ _ _ went in to stay with them. When J _ _ _ _ was at the table with them, he took B _ _ _ _ , blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their e _ _ _ were opened, and they recognized h _ _ ; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our h _ _ _ _ burning within us while J _ _ _ _ was talking to us on the r _ _ _ , while he was opening the s _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ to us?"

They recognise Jesus in the breaking of the bread! Alleluia! (Luke 24. 13-25)



The soft shoe shuffle

Act the story out using just footstep sounds. If your room is carpeted, you may need to import a piece of lino. The footstep sound

effects should accompany the narrative below. The children make the noises by walking or running on the spot or by using shoes on their hands to create the different sounds. With younger children, practise the footsteps beforehand and perform the story to them.

Start with two sets of feet walking slowly and heavily.

Cleopas and his friend were walking the seven miles from Jerusalem to their home. They were really sad because Jesus had been crucified.

A third pair of feet joins in.

As they walked along, Jesus joined them, but they didn't recognise him.

The footsteps slow down to a standstill.

Jesus asked them why they were sad. They told him the very sad story of Jesus dying on the cross. They also told him how that morning some women had spoken some nonsense about seeing an empty tomb and angels.

The footsteps start again at a normal pace.

As they walked along, Jesus explained to them all the Bible stories that told about Jesus coming, dying and rising again.

Now the original two pairs of feet stop but the third pair goes on walking.

Cleopas and his friend arrived at their home but Jesus kept on walking. Cleopas invited him in for a meal.

The third pair of feet pauses then 'walks back' again. All the feet shuffle back and forth, dragging heels and stubbing toes.

They set the table and prepared a meal.

All the feet are still.

At the meal Jesus said grace and then broke the bread. The two disciples suddenly realised who he was.

The third pair of feet disappears. The other feet run around with excitement.

They were so excited to recognise Jesus.

Somehow they had known there was something special about the stranger.

The feet now run very fast.

That very evening they ran back to Jerusalem to tell the others what had happened. They weren't surprised. They too had seen Jesus. He really was alive.

A human storyboard

This story moves through a wide range of emotions: grief, hearts burning within, joy, celebration. Make a living storyboard of what happened, with groups of two or three doing each freeze photo:

- Two grief-stricken friends on the road.
- Two puzzled friends listening to a stranger telling the Bible's story.
- Two curious friends inviting the stranger to stay.
- Two surprised friends at grace, sitting at the meal table.
- Two excited friends running to tell others what has happened.

Once the scenes are sorted, use them as a framework to retell the story. If possible, take photos for a future display.

You could also appoint one child as a reporter from the *Emmaus Advertiser*. This reporter should go to each still-life scene, which should briefly unfreeze, and interview the people involved. What are they feeling? What were they thinking? What has just happened? Children usually come up with some very interesting insights 'in character'.

MISSING JESUS

BIBLE NOTES

The Gospel Luke 24.13-25

Two themes have been particularly dominant in Luke's account of the ministry of Jesus: the meal and the journey. At the dinner table, Jesus has constantly offered salvation to the outcast and dispossessed. For the central section of his Gospel (ten chapters out of twenty-four), Luke has shown Jesus on the move, heading towards Jerusalem. Now, after the resurrection, these two threads come together.

- The journey to Jerusalem was purposeful and determined. The journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus finds the disciples dejected and confused. With Jesus' death, their world has fallen apart.
- The risen Lord is a mysterious figure they are prevented from recognising. But they recount their story to the stranger.
- The content of Cleopas' speech is virtually identical to Peter's Pentecost sermon, with one notable exception: he is yet to believe in the resurrection of Jesus.

- Jesus points them to the Old Testament Scriptures. But, in the light of what has happened to him, they have to be read in a radically new way. In retelling the old story of Scripture, he picks up the tattered threads of the disciples' own story, and makes sense of them.
- The 'burning' of their hearts while Jesus explains the Scriptures, and their recognising him in the breaking of bread points ahead to the post-Easter situation. Christ walks unrecognised with his pilgrim Church, but our hearts are able to burn when we hear the Scriptures read, and he still meets with us, in judgement and salvation, at the eucharistic table.

The reading from Acts Acts 2.14a, 36-41

The Epistle 1 Peter 1.17-23

(A full version of these notes can be found on the web site at www.rootsontheweb.com)



This resurrection appearance both looks back to the discovery

of the empty tomb earlier in the day and also looks forward to the way Christians can go on meeting Jesus in the opening of the Scriptures and the breaking of bread. It links Easter Day and every day for those who believe. However, the disciples all but miss Jesus in this story. They simultaneously both see him and don't see him. Luke seems to be suggesting that many of us can, in a similar way, miss the fact that Jesus is with us. The story alerts us to how we might see the one who, in the world's eyes, is missing.

- Rearrange the furniture in the room. Don't remove anything but make as many changes as possible so that some things seem to be missing. As the children arrive, ask for reactions. Everything seems to have changed. Some may even be upset. Children, like adults, prefer things to stay put. Explain that, in today's story, two of Jesus' disciples find their familiar world turned upside down. Many of the things they had thought they understood from the Bible were shown up in a completely different way.
- Display a pile of cuddly toys – and keep several extras hidden in a bag.

Emmaus Road Wordsearch



Can you find these words?

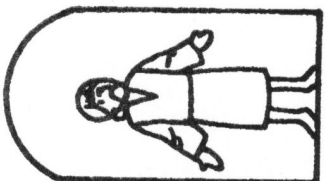
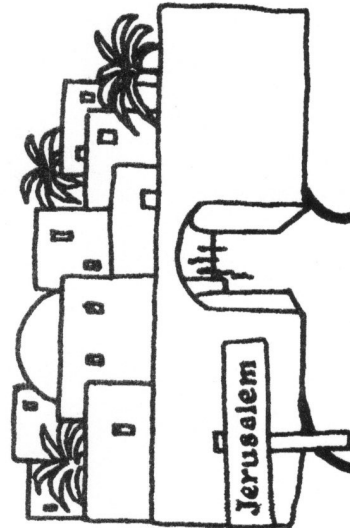
Approached, Asked, Bread, Broke, Burning,
Christ, Companions, Discussed, Discussing,
Downcast, Eleven, Emmaus, Enter, Evening,
Everything, Explained, From, Glory, Happened,
Hearts, Jesus, Kept, Miles, Moses, Opened,
Powerful, Prophets, Redeem, Returned, Risen,
Scriptures, Stay, Suffer, Talked, Thanks, Their,
True, Village, Visitor, Walked.



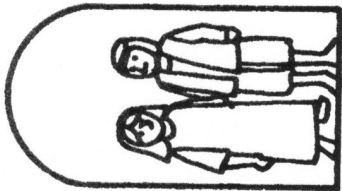
Then their eyes
were opened and
they knew Him.

Luke 24:31

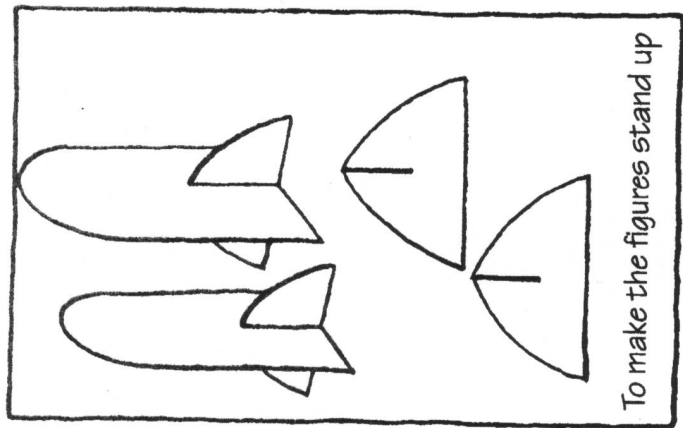
After the Resurrection two disciples were walking along the road to Emmaus. One was called Cleopas. They were talking about everything that had happened. Jesus joined them, but they were prevented from recognizing him. They still thought that Jesus was a prophet and he explained to them how scripture told about him. He then broke bread with them but as they recognized him he vanished. Cleopas and the other disciple returned to Jerusalem and told the apostles that they had met Jesus.



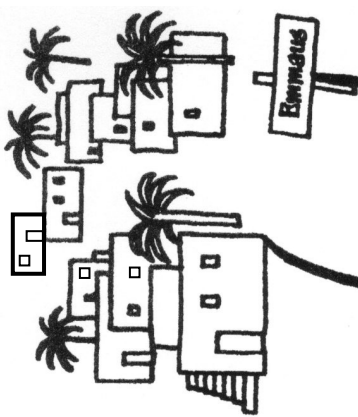
Jesus



Two friends



To make the figures stand up



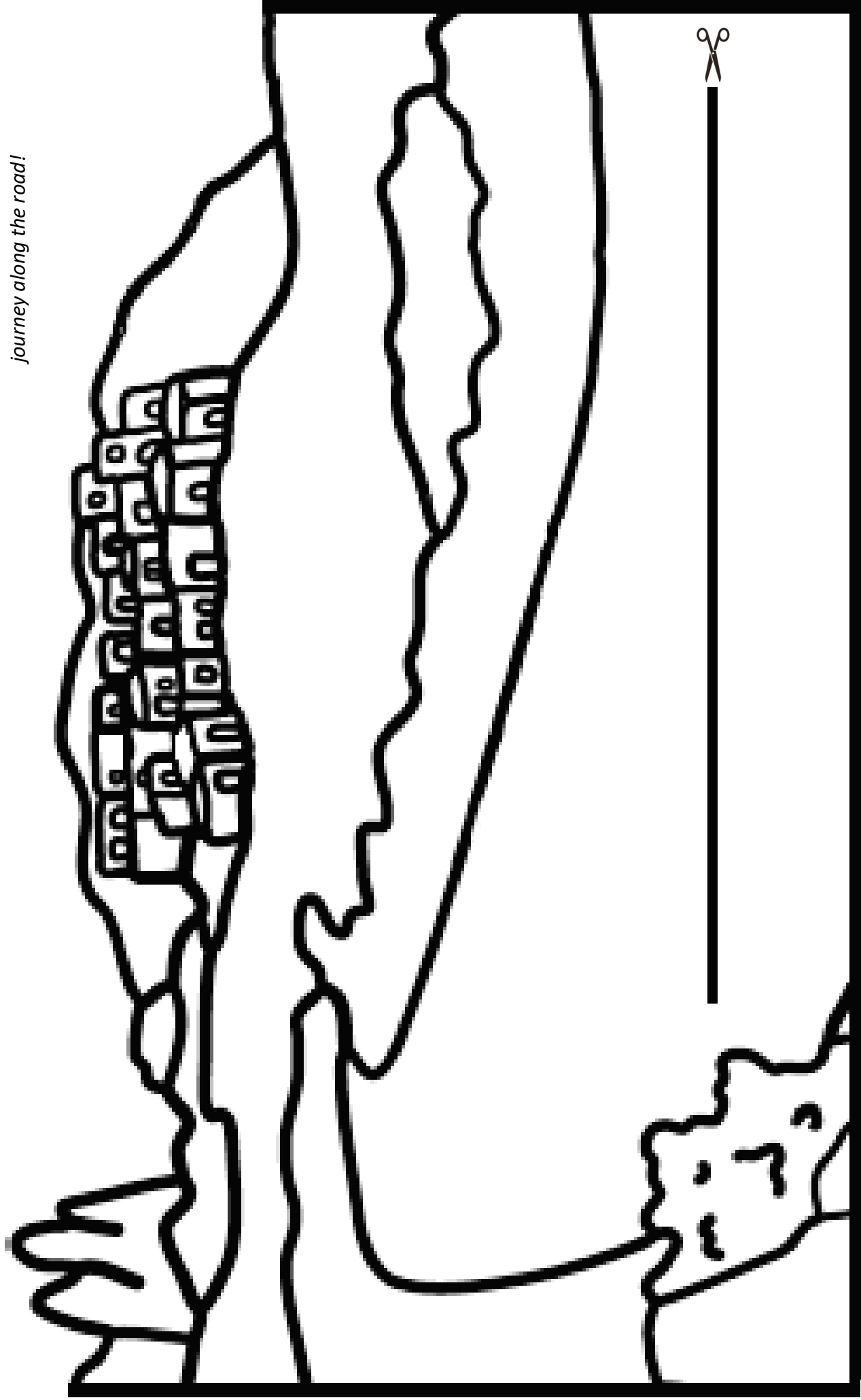
For parents to pray
with your child

Walk with me, Jesus,
today and every day.
I want to walk with
you, Jesus, right
through my life!
Amen.

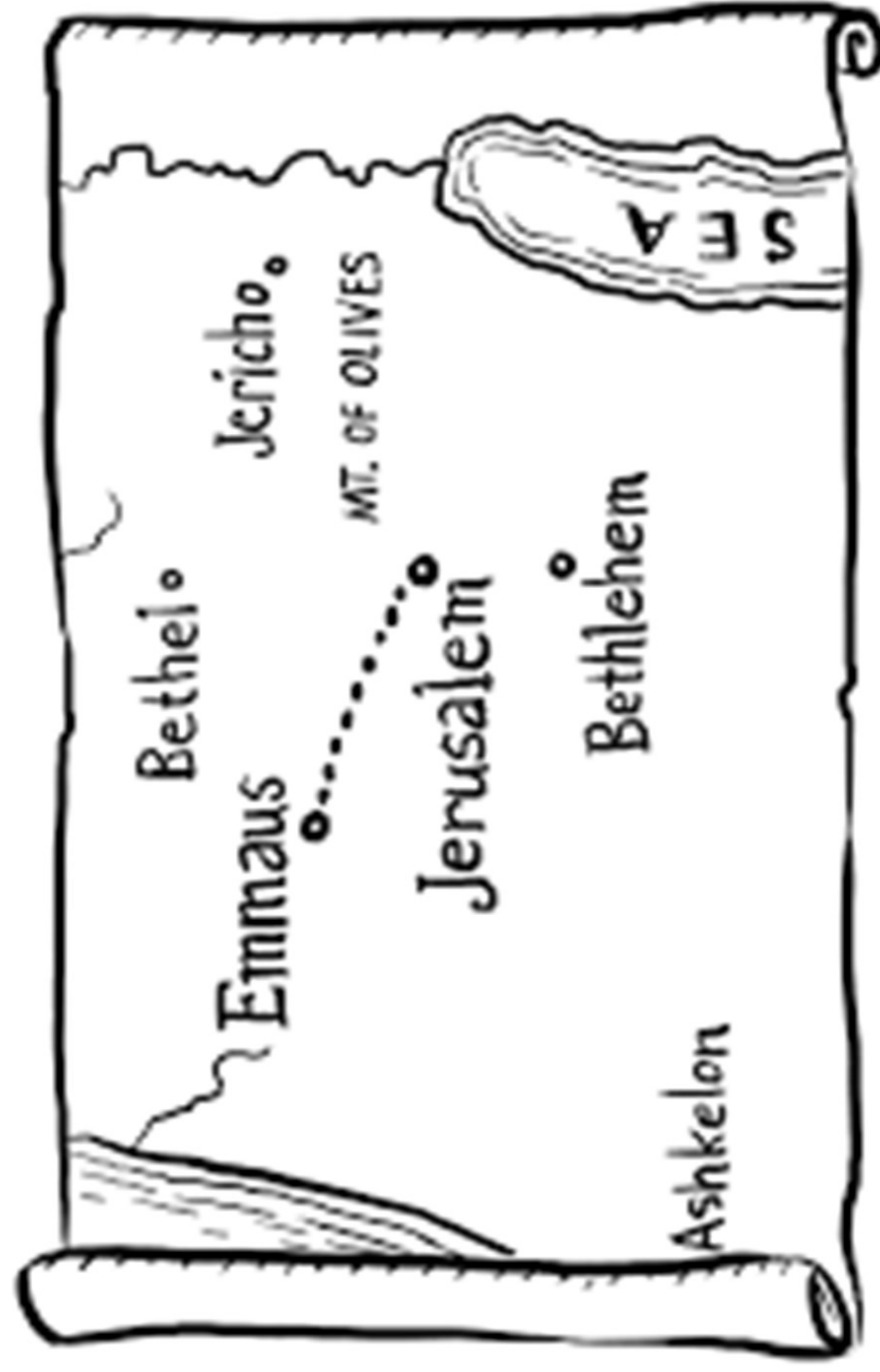


The Road to Emmaus Craft and Colour!

Print out the scene, colour and add the people. You may like to attach the characters to sticks or pieces of strong card. Carefully cut along the line and slide your characters in to make them journey along the road!







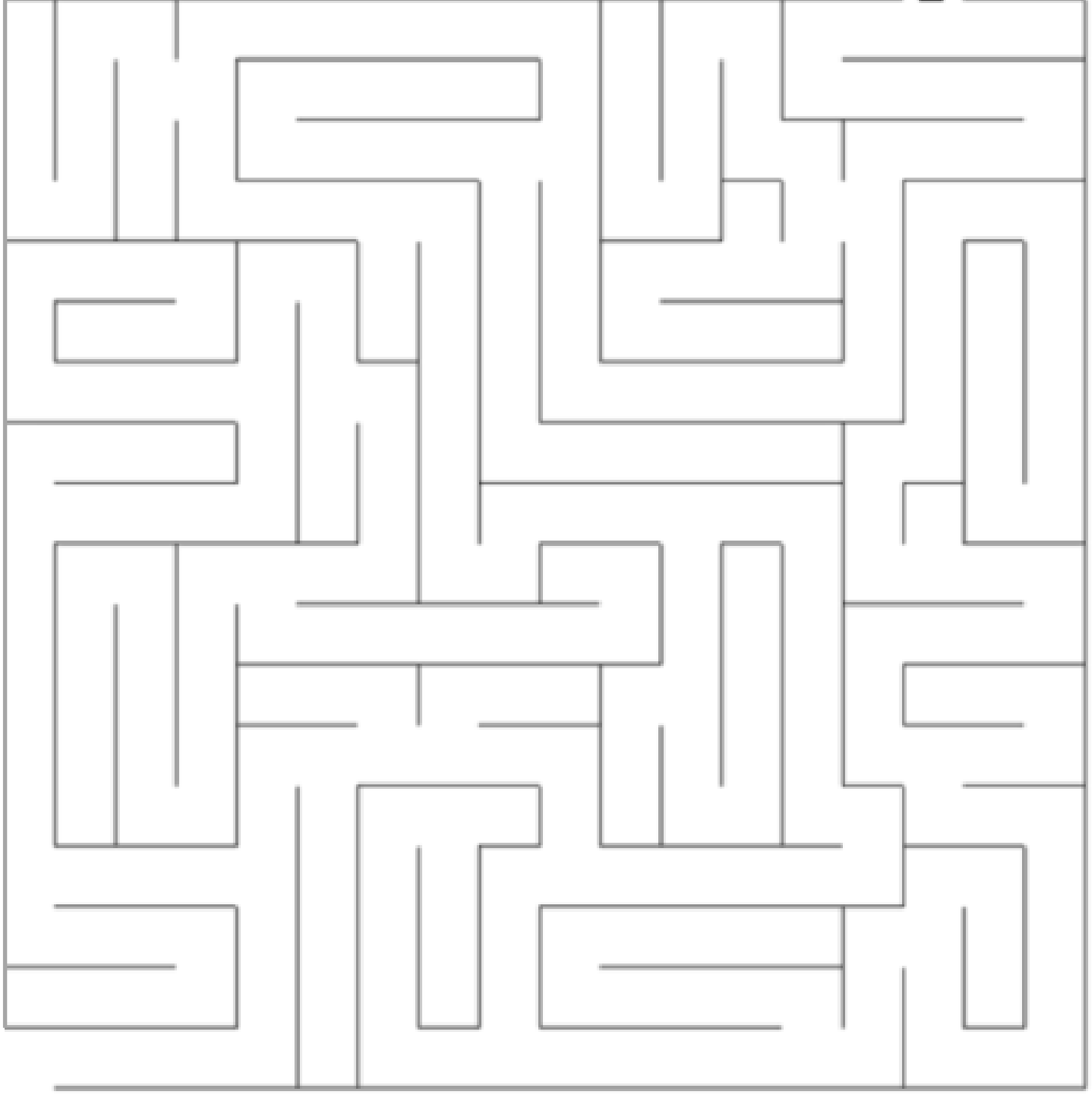


Help Cleopas get to Emmaus

That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles out of Jerusalem. Suddenly, Jesus himself came along and joined them and began walking beside them. (Luke 24:13, 15)



Emmaus





Together @ Home



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Jesus appearing on the Emmaus Road!

You can find it in your Bible in:
Luke 24 v 13–35

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.

To Emmaus

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Jesus appearing on the Emmaus Road. Thank you that your plan for Jesus to die for us and come back to life can be found throughout the Bible.

Help us to dig deep into your word and learn more about you. Help us to experience it like a fire in our own hearts.

We pray for those in the world who don't yet know you that they would be drawn close to you. Help us to share your word with others so that they can know your salvation plan too.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

Why do you think Jesus did not reveal who he was straight away?

When Jesus met with Thomas after he had risen he said "Those who believe without seeing me will be truly blessed" and in 2 Corinthians 5 v 7 we are encouraged to "live by what we believe, not by what we see". Jesus wanted the two followers to know he was alive not just because they had seen it but because they knew it in their hearts. In verse 32 they say that hearing Jesus explain the Bible was like having a fire burning in their hearts. Even though we cannot see Jesus we can still believe that He is alive and read the Bible – why not ask God to help you experience God's word like a fire today!

A question for children to ask adults

*What is your favourite verse of the Bible?
Why is it special to you?*

Family Activity 1

You will need: A blindfold (scarf), some familiar objects

Jesus said it was better to believe without seeing. Take it in turns to wear the blindfold. Pass an object to the person wearing the blindfold, can they work out what it is without being able to see it?

You could think about how the object feels, how it smells, if it makes a sound. Maybe you will find out new things about the objects that you hadn't noticed before.

When Jesus spent time with his followers, they did not recognise him by how he looked but they experienced something new about who he was in the way he unlocked scripture to them.



Together @ Home



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Daniel and his healthy eating.

You can find it in your Bible in:
Daniel 1

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.



A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the story of Daniel, thank you that even though he was a prisoner in a strange land he still chose to live for you.

Help us to look after our bodies and minds, living for you while we are in lockdown.

Help all those who are struggling to get the food they need. Please protect all those keyworkers who are working to get food onto the shelves. Bless those serving in food banks and those helping to shop for friends and neighbours in our communities.

Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

What foods did Daniel and his friends eat in the story?

Daniel and his friends just ate vegetables and water for ten days instead of the food the King was offering. God saw their commitment and blessed them with wisdom and favour with the King. This story is not just about what foods we eat but about choosing to put God first and live in obedience to God. Daniel and his friends might have struggled and been tempted by the rich food that those around them were eating, but they stuck with their simple diet and put God first.

A question for children to ask adults

Can you think of a time when you said no to something tempting?

A question to ask each other

What is your favourite thing to eat?

Family Activity 1

You will need: Paper or card, Drawing materials

Cut your paper or card into a circle shape and design a meal to draw onto it together.

If you have magazines or packaging around the house, you could cut out pictures of food to stick on. Give everybody the chance to add something to your family dinner plate even if you end up with a very strange plate of food!

Why not use mealtimes this week as a time to stop and pray, thanking God for his provision and asking Him to help you to live in obedience.

