

Use Week of:

Easter • Session 5

Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 24; John 20

STORY POINT:

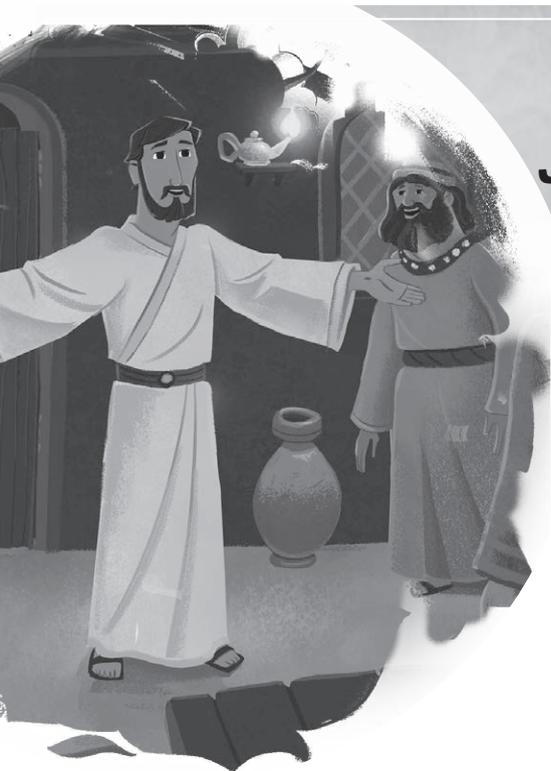
Jesus appeared to His disciples.

KEY PASSAGE:

Romans 10:9

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.



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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit MinistryGrid.com/gospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

Only a few days had passed since Jesus was arrested, beaten, and crucified. His followers were undoubtedly afraid and confused. They met together in a house, locking the doors because they were afraid of the Jews. Would the Jews do to them what they had done to Jesus? They had believed that Jesus was the Messiah, but they had abandoned Him and Jesus was killed. How could He save anyone if He was dead?

But now some people were reporting that Jesus was alive! Could it be true? The disciples were talking about these things when Jesus stood among them. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

“Peace to you!” He said. What good news. Imagine how Jesus’ words might have calmed the disciples’ anxious hearts. Their Lord, whom they had deserted, didn’t show up to scold them for their failures or shame them for their lack of faith. He spoke peace to them.

Even though Jesus had foretold His death and resurrection (Matt. 20:17-19), Jesus showed His disciples physical proof that He was alive. He showed them His hands and His side. With His resurrection, Jesus’ mission was accomplished. He paid the debt for sinners, and the transaction cleared. But the disciples’ work was just beginning.

Jesus gave His followers a job to do: “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you” (John 20:21). This verse contains the Gospel of John’s version of the Great Commission. Jesus, the One sent from the Father, sent the disciples to be His messengers and representatives. Jesus equipped the disciples with the Holy Spirit to proclaim the gospel—the good news of what Jesus has done—to the world.

Emphasize to the kids you teach that Jesus is alive today. We haven’t seen Him for ourselves, but we believe this by faith. He sends out all believers to tell others about Him, and He gives us power through the Holy Spirit.

The BIBLE Story

Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

Luke 24; John 20

On the first day of the week, in the evening, the disciples gathered together in a house. They locked the doors because they were afraid of the Jews. They didn't want to be killed like Jesus had been killed.

But wait ... Jesus had appeared to two disciples on the road, and Mary Magdalene had reported seeing Him alive too.

Could it be true?

As the disciples talked, Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!"

The disciples were afraid! They couldn't believe their eyes! Was this really Jesus? The disciples **thought they were seeing a ghost.**

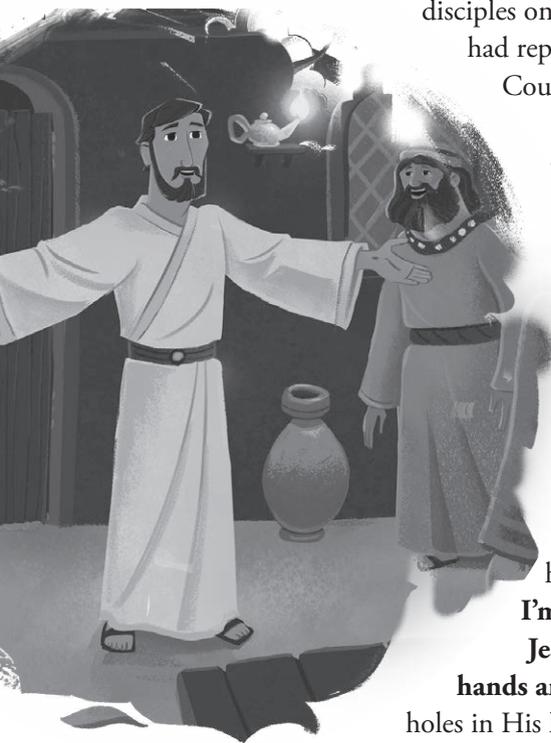
"Why are you afraid? It's Me! Why do you doubt?" Jesus said. "Look at Me and touch Me. A ghost does not have flesh and bones, but I do.

I'm not a ghost."

Jesus showed His disciples His hands and His side. They saw the holes in His hands and in His side. Jesus was alive? It seemed too good to be true. The disciples

rejoiced because they were so happy to see Jesus!

The disciples gave Jesus some fish to eat. **Jesus talked to them and explained the Bible to them.** "The Bible is about Me," Jesus said. **He**



helped them understand how the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms told about Him. Then Jesus told the disciples that they had a job to do. Jesus had died and was raised from the dead so that people could be forgiven for their sins. The disciples needed to tell other people to repent from their sin and be forgiven.

“Peace to you!” Jesus said to them again. “God sent Me to earth, and in the same way, I am sending you.” **Jesus sent out the disciples to be His witnesses and to tell all the people that He is alive.**

Christ Connection: For 40 days, Jesus presented Himself to at least 500 people and proved that He is alive. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8) Jesus is still alive today. He sends out believers to tell others about Him and gives us power through the Holy Spirit.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Set the scene:**
Create a house's perimeter with large blocks or masking tape on the floor. Gather kids inside the “house” and pretend to lock the door. Tell the story.
- **Use emotions:**
Tell the story. Pause from time to time and ask kids to show you on their faces and in their pose how they might have felt if they had been there with Jesus' friends. Would they feel afraid? Amazed? Happy? Joyful? Determined?

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jesus Appeared to the Disciples

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 24; John 20

STORY POINT: Jesus appeared to His disciples.

KEY PASSAGE: Romans 10:9

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to share about the best surprise they ever got.

Activity page (5 minutes)

- “Five Senses Observations” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Invite kids to complete the “Five Senses Observations” on the activity page. Instruct kids to describe a food item to a partner based on sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch. Can the partner guess the item?

SAY • In the days after Jesus’ death on the cross, Jesus’ disciples began to hear stories about people who claimed to have seen Jesus alive. Could it be true? We’ll find out how Jesus used some of His senses to prove it—He is alive!

LOW PREP

- index cards
- pencils

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Make introductions

Give each kid an index card. Instruct kids to write on their cards the name of a well-known person, such as a leader, actor, or fictional character. Then guide kids to list three or

four things of that person's accomplishments.

Invite a volunteer to stand at the front of the room and introduce or describe the person without saying his name. Then say, "Ladies and gentlemen, I'm pleased to introduce to you" Pause and invite the rest of the kids to guess the person's name. Choose additional volunteers to make introductions as time allows.

SAY • It sure would be exciting to meet some of those people! Let me introduce to you someone from our Bible story today. This is someone no one expected to see in the room. He was born in a stable, lived His entire life without sinning once, and died on the cross to rescue sinners! Ladies and gentlemen, I'm pleased to introduce to you ... Jesus, the Son of God!

OPTION 2: Collect and conclude

Before the session, list pizza ingredients on separate index cards. You may choose to provide the actual ingredients for kids to touch: flour, oil, tomatoes, cheese, sausage, green peppers, onions, pepperoni, black olives, and so on.

- index cards
- marker
- pizza ingredients (optional)
- Allergy Alert

Show one ingredient or read a card. Prompt kids to guess a possible recipe. Then read another card and allow more guesses. Add ingredients one at a time. Challenge kids to guess a final result. (*pizza*)

SAY • Great work! You collected the clues to figure out the food. In today's Bible story, Jesus' disciples collected clues about Jesus to figure out what was happening. We are going to learn more.

Transition to teach the story

TEACH the Story



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KEY PASSAGE: Romans 10:9

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as you transition to teach the story. Set it to end as the session begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire
• clipboard
• pen

[Leader enters carrying a clipboard and pen.]

LEADER • Oh, hey there! I am so glad to see you! Wow, there are so many of you. This is just wonderful. My name is *[your name]* and I'd like you to raise your hand if you like to travel. *[Pretend to make notations on the clipboard.]* OK! Hands down.

Now, raise your hand if you like to be part of a team. *[Make notations.]* Perfect. Now, raise your hand if you like to talk. *[Make notations again.]* That's great! I'm looking for a team of people to learn about Jesus together and tell others about Him. I think you all are the perfect fit. Are you all ready? Let's get started.

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • For the last several weeks, we've heard this big picture question: *Who saves us from our sin?* The

Tip: If you prefer not to use themed content or characters, adapt or omit this introduction.

answers might seem obvious, but people actually try a lot of different things to fix their relationship with God. They might try to act a certain way or do certain things to earn God's favor, but the Bible is clear that we can't save ourselves. Let's say our big picture question and answer together: *Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.*

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

· Giant Timeline

LEADER • The stories of the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of God's plan to save sinners through His Son, Jesus. Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, but the story doesn't end there.

After Jesus rose from the dead, He helped His disciples understand that their part of God's plan was just beginning. Our story today is called "Jesus Appeared to the Disciples." Let's find out what happened.

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Luke 24; John 20. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "Jesus Appeared to the Disciples."

· Bibles
· "Jesus Appeared to the Disciples" video
· Big Picture Question Poster
· Bible Story Picture Poster
· Story Point Poster

LEADER • Jesus sure was busy after He rose from the dead. First, He appeared to the women at the tomb. Then **Jesus appeared to His disciples.** Jesus appeared to many people as proof that God had raised Jesus from the dead.

Can you imagine how frightened the disciples

must have been when Jesus appeared to them? They were in a locked room! Once again, Jesus explained to the disciples that Scripture tells about Him. Jesus also told the disciples to go and tell people about Him. Jesus told them to share with people that He had died and was resurrected so people could repent of their sins and be forgiven.

And that's what they did. They went and told other people that Jesus was the Messiah—the Savior God had promised. They said He died on the cross for their sins but He was alive again! They had seen Him themselves! Then they told other people, and those people told others.

Isn't it great that a couple thousand years later, people are still telling others about Jesus?

Christ connection

LEADER • When Jesus appeared to His disciples, He said, “Peace to you.” Peace is a blessing or gift that believers have because Jesus is alive. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin and defeated evil through His death and resurrection. Followers of Jesus have peace because we know that Jesus is the all-powerful, risen Lord and Savior.

For 40 days, Jesus presented Himself to at least 500 people and proved that He is alive. (1 Cor. 15:3-8) Jesus is still alive today. He sends out believers to tell others about Him and gives us power through the Holy Spirit. If you are a believer, it is your mission to tell others about Jesus too. *Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.*

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided on page 161 to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Questions from kids video (3 minutes)

Show the “Easter, Session 5” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to think about where Jesus is today. Guide them to discuss some ways the Holy Spirit has worked in their own lives.

· “Easter, Session 5” questions from kids video



Missions moment (3 minutes)

LEADER • Many people around the world and in our neighborhoods haven’t heard the gospel. Remember the Dye family? They are missionaries living in Atlanta, Georgia. They share this news everywhere they go. They also invite the people they meet to their church. Watch this video to see how God is changing lives at the Dyes’ church.

Show the “Casting the Dye (Part 3)” missions video.

LEADER • People who have not heard the gospel don’t know that when we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us. Just like the Dye family, we can tell people this good news wherever we go too.

· “Casting the Dye (Part 3)” missions video

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Romans 10:9.

· Key Passage Poster

LEADER • The words in our key passage are not actual words a person is required to say in order to become a Christian, but these are good words to say. They show that a person has faith in Jesus. Jesus will save anyone who trusts in Him.

Lead boys and girls in saying Romans 10:9 again.

Sing (4 minutes)

Open your Bible and read aloud 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

· worship song of your choice

LEADER • Wow. After **Jesus appeared to His disciples**, those guys must have been so excited to tell everyone about everything that had happened. God had done great things, and when we tell others about Him, God gets glory. Let's sing.

Sing together a worship song of your choice.

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to apply the story.

LEADER • Lord God, thank You for Your Word. Even though we do not see Jesus face to face today like the disciples did, we believe that Your Word is true and by faith trust that one day we will see Him face to face when we are with You forever. We love You. Amen.

Dismiss to apply the story

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



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STORY POINT: Jesus appeared to His disciples.

KEY PASSAGE: Romans 10:9

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

• Key Passage Poster

Distribute Bibles and guide kids to find Romans 10. Choose a volunteer to read aloud verse 9. Form two groups of kids. Display the key passage poster and assign groups alternating phrases of the key passage.

Call on group 1 to read its first phrase, group 2 to read its first phrase, group 1 to read its second phrase, and so on until kids read the entire key passage.

Repeat a few times. Then reverse the assigned phrases and lead kids to read the key passage again.

SAY • Do you know who wrote these words? (*Paul*) Paul wrote a letter to the believers in a city called Rome. Paul's letter to the Romans tells us the basic points of the Christian faith—that we are all sinners; we are saved by the grace of God, and not because we deserve it; and it is our faith in Jesus that saves us, not anything we do. These words from Romans 10:9 remind us of how we are saved from sin.

• Bibles, 1 per kid
• Story Point Poster
• Small Group Timeline
and Map Set
(005802970)

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Luke 24. Remind kids that the Book of Luke is in the

division of the Bible called the Gospels. It was written by Luke, who was a doctor and a Gentile (non-Jew). Luke is the third book in the New Testament.

SAY • Jesus appeared to His disciples in Jerusalem. [*Point to Jerusalem (H5) on the New Testament Israel Map.*]

He sent them out to tell people about Him. Jesus' disciples obeyed and the good news about Jesus spread.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. At least 500 people said they saw Jesus after His resurrection. Why do you think we can believe their testimonies? *Guide kids to consider the reliability of a testimony when it is verified by multiple people. Point out the risk of early believers who claimed to see Jesus alive; many were persecuted or killed. Emphasize that we believe the Bible is completely true, but we also believe by faith that Jesus is alive.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 66:16.)

2. Why do you think some people doubt that Jesus is the Messiah? *Lead kids to recognize that many people want physical proof of something in order to believe. Jesus said that those who have not seen and yet believe are blessed. Faith is a gift from God. When we doubt, we can pray and ask God to help us believe.*

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 20:29.)

3. What is our mission as believers? *Prompt kids to conclude that our mission as believers is to make disciples of all nations by the power of the Spirit. Emphasize that people need to hear and believe the gospel—the good news about Jesus—to have forgiveness of sins and to have eternal life.*

(Option: Choose a kid to read Matt. 28:19-20.)

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

- watercolor paper
- scissors
- paintbrushes
- permanent markers
- cups of water
- watercolor paints
- chalkboard or dry erase board
- chalk or marker

Tip: Use this activity option to reinforce the missions moment from Teach the Story.

LOW PREP

- white crayons
- washable markers
- index cards
- Big Picture Question Poster

Activity choice (10 minutes)



OPTION 1: Watercolor invitations

Cut pieces of watercolor paper in half and fold each sheet in half to make a card. Group kids at tables and give them each a card, a paintbrush, and a permanent marker. Place cups of water and watercolor paint at each table.

Explain that they are going to make invitations to invite friends to church. Instruct kids to write a message on the front (For example: *You are invited*) and the inside of their card. Write the church address on a dry erase or chalkboard for kids to also include in their cards. Invite kids to decorate the fronts of their cards. Let the cards dry.

Be sure to explain to parents that the cards are invitations to invite someone to church. Encourage them to help their child invite someone to church.

SAY • Share that part of the Dye family's plan to let people in Atlanta know the good news about Jesus is to invite everyone they meet to their church. We can invite people to our church too!

OPTION 2: Invisible messages

Give each kid a white crayon and an index card. Display the big picture question poster. Assign each kid to write a word or phrase of the big picture question and answer on his index card.

Collect the cards and redistribute them among the kids. Provide washable markers and instruct kids to color over the crayon to reveal the hidden words. Then challenge kids to work together to arrange the big picture question and answer in order.

SAY • Jesus is still alive today. God has a plan for each of us. Our mission as believers is to make disciples of

all nations by the power of the Spirit. God gives us power through the Holy Spirit to obey His commands to go and tell the good news of the gospel: *Who saves us from our sin? Only Jesus saves us from sin.*

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then lead kids in prayer. Thank God for His Word so we can know Him more. Pray that kids would believe by faith that Jesus is alive.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "He's Here!" on the activity page. Kids should color the boxes marked with odd numbers to reveal a special name. (*Jesus*)

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "He's Here!" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.