

Junior Soldiers

Easter



The Emmaus Road Discovery

PURPOSE : This lesson is about paying attention to Jesus and discovering all the good news that His Easter resurrection brings to us.

“You are witnesses of all these things.”
Luke 24:48 (NLT)

Consider & Prepare

The Easter story is one which we could become dismissive of, as we hear it every year. There is a real concern that the children may even have switched off before your program starts as they feel like they have heard the whole sad story before! We know there is so much to the Easter story and God's word is alive and active. So we can expect new understandings to come out of every new investigation of scripture. God reveals Himself more fully and we are changed as God's living word, lives and works in our lives. Read Luke's account of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Take the time needed to read all of Luke, chapters 22-24. This lesson will focus on the story of Jesus appearing to the disciples on the Emmaus road (Luke 24).

As you read the account from Luke, what did you notice about the disciples and their journey?

Why can't they recognize Jesus?

How do they finally recognize Jesus?

What happens next?

When do the disciples actually believe that Jesus is alive?

SAFE SALVOS note: This lesson includes an activity which requires the children to walk to a destination 1 km away or to walk a 'round trip' of 1 km. In order to do this, you need to fill in an activity approval form **ONE MONTH** in advance in addition to obtaining parental permission. If permission cannot be obtained please use Option 3 below.

What you'll need:

For Connecting In:

- A large blanket or sheet that cannot be seen through.
- OR Small group option: Photographs of a number of different people and a cloth OR a 'Guess Who' board game.

For the Main Thing

- Set up 7 checkpoints that allow the children to 'journey' from one point to another.

Option 1: Set up Checkpoint 4 at a point 1km away from your venue

Option 2: Measure a distance 500m away from your venue. Walk the children to this point then return to your venue to achieve the 1km walk.

Option 3: Mark out a convenient distance within your venue and allow the children to walk laps until they have achieved the 1km walk.

- Print one 'Emmaus Passport' per child
- One stamp or stickers for each checkpoint
- Stop watch or phone with a timer to time how long it takes to walk 1km
- Assistants to help out each checkpoint
- Travelling food **beware of any food allergies in your group

For Tying In

- Camouflaged Easter eggs



Connecting in

Introductory story

Tell a personal story about looking for something (or not seeing something or someone) who is right there in front of them. For example, looking for glasses that were actually on top of your head; looking for your mobile phone while you are talking on it...

Ask:

Have you ever been looking right at something and not seen it?

Today we are going to take a journey of discovery. We are hoping that as we go you will find some things in the Easter story that you might not have seen before, even though they were right in front of you. So, as we journey, keep your eyes and ears open to find something new.

→ Walk together to Checkpoint 1

Checkpoint 1

Play drop the sheet:

Equipment: One large blanket or sheet.

Divide the children into 2 teams, each team takes turns nominating a mystery person from their team for the other team to guess. That person stands behind the sheet (with the rest of their team) and the Guessing team tries to work out who the mystery person is. They can ask questions, and every question (within reason) needs to be honestly answered.

When the Guessing team makes a guess, the sheet is dropped to reveal the mystery person. Correct guesses gain points 5 points for a correct guess after 2 questions; 4 after 3 questions; 3 after 4 questions; 2 after 5 questions and 1 after 6 questions.

Teams alternate providing a mystery person and guessing to gain points.

Small group option

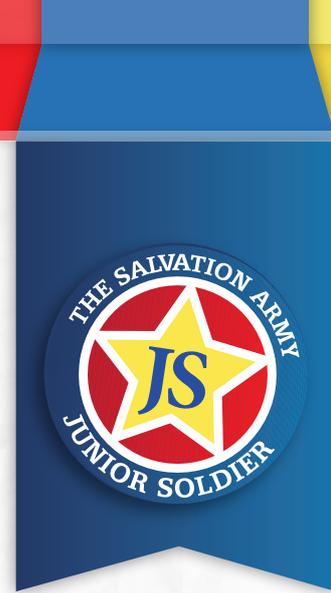
Use photos and cover them with a cloth OR Play the board game 'Guess Who'

Questions

If you met a close friend of yours while you were walking along the road do you think you would recognize them?

Is there anything that might stop you from recognizing them?

☺ Have your passport stamped



The main thing

→ Walk together to Checkpoint 2.

Checkpoint 2

Read Luke 9:22 **Jesus** told his disciples, “The nation’s leaders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law of Moses will make the Son of Man suffer terribly. They will reject him and kill him, but three days later he will rise to life.”

Read Luke 9:43b-45

While everyone was still amazed at what Jesus was doing, he said to his disciples, ⁴⁴ “Pay close attention to what I am telling you! The Son of Man will be handed over to his enemies.” ⁴⁵ But the disciples did not know what he meant. The meaning was hidden from them. They could not understand it, and they were afraid to ask.

Read Luke 18:31-34

³¹ Jesus took the twelve apostles aside and said:

We are now on our way to Jerusalem. Everything that the prophets wrote about the Son of Man will happen there.

³² He will be handed over to foreigners, who will make fun of him, mistreat him, and spit on him. ³³ They will beat him and kill him, but three days later he will rise to life.

³⁴ The apostles did not understand what Jesus was talking about. They could not understand, because the meaning of what he said was hidden from them.

and

Luke 22:22-23

For it has been determined that the Son of Man[c] must die. But what sorrow awaits the one who betrays him.”

²³ The disciples began to ask each other which of them would ever do such a thing.

Questions

How many times did Jesus speak about his death and resurrection with his disciples?

How did the disciples react?

☺ Answer the question, “how many times did Luke record that Jesus spoke about his suffering, death and resurrection” to have your passport stamped.

→ Walk together to Checkpoint 3.

Checkpoint 3

Together read Luke 24:1-12.

Questions

Who found the empty tomb?

Who else was at the empty tomb?

What did the messengers say?

☺ Have your passport stamped

→ Walk 1 km to Checkpoint 4 – Time how long it takes you to walk 1km.

Checkpoint 3

Together read Luke 24:1-12.

Questions

Who found the empty tomb?

Who else was at the empty tomb?

What did the messengers say?

☺ Have your passport stamped

→ Walk 1 km to Checkpoint 4 – Time how long it takes you to walk 1km.

Checkpoint 4

Question

Who was at the empty tomb the first time it was discovered that Jesus' body was missing?

Calculate

Use the time it took you to walk 1km to work out approximately how long it would have taken the disciples to walk the 12km between Jerusalem and Emmaus.

Together read Luke 24:13-18

Questions

What did you notice about this part of the story? [allow for lots of answers and time for kids to re-read the story to find their answers]

Why do you think the disciples were leaving Jerusalem [on the Sunday]?

How did those 2 disciples not know it was Jesus walking with them?

☺ Have your passport stamped

→ Walk together to Checkpoint 5.

Checkpoint 5

Together read Luke 24:19-27 (and Luke 24:1-12 if needed)

Questions

Did the disciples remember the story accurately?

If you had been there, what would you want to say or ask?

☺ Tell the checkpoint person how long it would have taken the disciples to travel from Jerusalem to Emmaus to get your passport stamped.

→ Walk together to Checkpoint 6.

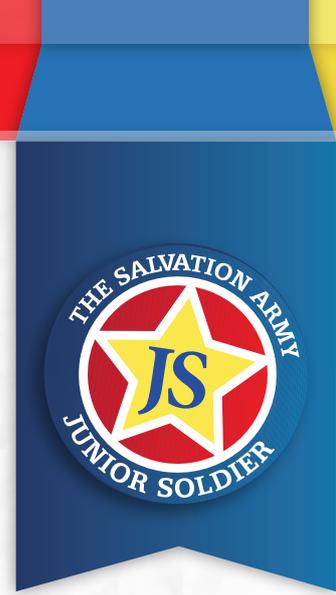
Checkpoint 6

Together read Luke 24:28-35.

Share some simple 'travelling food' –or have a meal together. (Be aware of any allergies in your group).

Before eating everyone can say or write down something they are thankful for.

The leader or meal host can repeat the traditional Jewish blessing of the bread.



“Blessed are You, LORD our God, King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth.”

During the meal Read Luke 24:35-53

Questions

What happened?

What was Jesus trying to do?

How did Jesus' words and actions make a difference?

What were the instructions for the disciples?

☺ Have your passport stamped

→ Walk together to Checkpoint 7.



Tying in

Checkpoint 7

Camouflaged Easter egg hunt

Invite the children to hunt for eggs, make sure you have hidden them carefully in plain sight, using the opportunity to hide eggs in places that are the same colour as the wrapper.

As the children sit down and enjoy some chocolate, ask them about seeing and not-seeing things that are in plain sight. How well did they go searching for eggs? Did they share what they found; did they like this Easter egg hunt?

Questions

When do you think the disciples first believed Jesus was alive again?

When did you first believe in Jesus?

As you read the Luke's version of the events around Jesus' resurrection day...

What did you notice about the disciples and their walk to and from Emmaus?

Why can't they recognize Jesus?

How do they finally recognize Jesus?

What happens next?

When do the disciples actually believe that Jesus is alive?

☺ Trade in an Easter Egg wrapper to have your passport stamped

Prayer Activity

Take another walk. Walk quietly around your space.

As you walk, talk to Jesus about what you have learnt today. Ask him to help you to be more aware of him each day.

Home & beyond

Create a life and faith timeline for yourself. Mark your ages (by year if that suits).

Now mark on the time line

When I first heard about Jesus (that I can remember).

When I first knew what Jesus came to earth to do.

When I first believed and trusted Jesus as my Lord, king, friend, and saviour.

When I first noticed Jesus at work.

Write some things on your timeline that still blow your mind or fill your heart or amaze you about Jesus, and his love



and care for you. If you can, write one thing down that is a big reason for why you trust in Jesus.

Or

Paint a picture of Jesus walking beside you answering your questions about life and faith.

Appendix A

****Traditional Jewish Blessing over the bread**

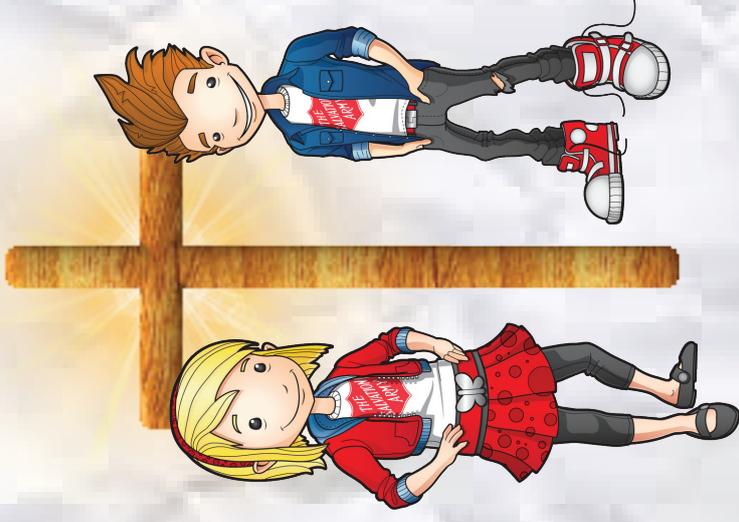
This blessing is made only for bread made from one or all of wheat, barley, rye, oats, and spelt.

Transliteration: Barukh ata Adonai Eloheinu, melekh ha'olam, hamotzi lehem min ha'aretz.

Translation: "Blessed are You, LORD our God, King of the universe, Who brings forth bread from the earth."



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EASTER PASSPORT



CHECKPOINT	INSTRUCTIONS	QUESTIONS	STAMP
1	Play a game of 'Drop the Sheet'	If you met a close friend of yours while you were walking along the road do you think you would recognize them? Is there anything that might stop you from recognizing them?	
2	Read Luke 9:22 Read Luke 9:43-45 Read Luke 18:31-34 Answer the question, "how many times did Luke record that Jesus spoke about his suffering, death and resurrection" to have your passport stamped	How many times did Jesus speak about his death and resurrection with his disciples? How did the disciples react?	
3	Read Luke 24:1-12	Who found the empty tomb? Who else was at the empty tomb? What did the messengers say?	
4	Use the time it took you to walk 1km to work out approximately how long it would have taken the disciples to walk the 12km between Jerusalem and Emmaus. Read Luke 24:13-18	Use the time it took you to walk 1km to work out approximately how long it would have taken the disciples to walk the 12km between Jerusalem and Emmaus.	
5	Read Luke 24:19-27 Tell the checkpoint person how long it would have taken the disciples to travel from Jerusalem to Emmaus to get your passport stamped.	Did the disciples remember the story accurately? If you had been there, what would you want to say or ask?	
6	Read Luke 24:28-35. Share some simple 'travelling food' Before eating, say or write down something you are thankful for During the meal Read Luke 24:35-53	What happened? What was Jesus trying to do? How did Jesus' words and actions make a difference? What were the instructions for the disciples?	
7	Join in an Easter Egg hunt Trade in an Easter Egg wrapper to have your passport stamped	Join in an Easter Egg hunt Trade in an Easter Egg wrapper to have your passport stamped	