C+G Education

RCL

LIVING THE WORD

Cross+Generational Education
Years A & B

Leader's Guide

Sample Lesson

April 18, 2021

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Sunday, April 18, 2021
3rd Sunday of Easter
Year B

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:36b-48

First Reading:

Acts 3:12-19

Second Reading:

1 John 3:1-7

Key Verse:

"You are witnesses of these things."
– Luke 24:48

The Point:

Jesus' resurrection fulfills the words of the prophets.

Liturgical Color:

White

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Activities & Supplies

Into the Word

Prove It Share a story about a story.	**5 min.**	• Groupings Guide • Materials for chosen cross+generational grouping

Seasons of the Word

Name Above All Names—Resurrection Create a class graffiti mural.	**10 min.**	• Internet-connected devices • Mural paper • Markers or crayons • Optional: list of names of Jesus

Learning the Word

Jesus Appears Tell the story with puppets.	**20 min.**	• Bibles • Activity Sheet A • Scissors • Glue • Markers or crayons • Brown paper lunch bags

The Word in the World

You Are Witnesses Learn to be a witness.	**10 min.**	• Bibles

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Beyond the Gospel

Behold What Manner of Love Sing along to the verse.	**5 min.**	• Bible • Music player • Optional: Internet-connected device

Additional Activities

Believe It When I See It Some things are hard to believe.	**10 min.**	• *Ripley's Believe It or Not* books • Optional: Internet-connected devices, projector
Fish Food Share a fishy snack.	**5 min.**	• Fish-shaped crackers • Fish-shaped candy • Napkins
Love Like a Child Role play being child-like.	**10 min.**	• None

Sending

	5 min.	• The Word @ Home take-home sheet

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Cross+Generational Ministry has at its core the concept that faith is formed through meaningful relationships. When we connect with people of a different generation, we are able to learn from them and share our own experiences, no matter what age we are. We find our place in God's story best by exploring that story as community.

Effective cross+generational experiences are:

- ***Experiential***
- ***Interactive***
- ***Engaging***
- ***Story-centered***
- ***Home-based***
- ***Equalizing***

all of which promote an **encounter with God**. All of the activities included in this leader guide are intended to engage these principles, through intentional cross+generational interaction and active, creative activities that bring the Bible story to life in our lives.

We pass on the faith through every action, experience, or relationship that nurtures a transformative relationship of trust with God and shapes the way we see and interact with God's world. When we do this in meaningful, intergenerational relationships, our faith is enriched from the diversity of the experiences we share with each other. Our communities are strengthened, and we have confidence in our sense of belonging to God and with each other.

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Background for Leaders

God continues to save God's people through Jesus. We respond to that by loving and caring for others, but it is not that response in itself that brings us salvation. Salvation comes only through God in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Summary: Luke 24:36b-48
Jesus Appears to the Disciples
Last week, we heard John's version of Jesus' appearances after his resurrection. Today, we hear from Luke. Immediately prior to today's reading is the story of Jesus appearing on the road to Emmaus. Now, while the disciples are still amazed and talking about Jesus' appearance, he is again with them and bringing words of peace. These disciples do not believe that this is Jesus, but think that he is a ghost. They have been raised on the words of the prophets, but need the proof of Jesus eating and his physical touch before they believe.

First Reading Summary: Acts 3:12-19
Peter repeats the story of the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus. As in the Gospel text, Peter references the words of the prophets and reminds the hearers that they are now witnesses to the resurrection.

Second Reading Summary: 1 John 3:1-7
God loves us so much that we are called God's children. Because of this gift of grace, we are forgiven and our sins are removed, freeing us to live in Jesus' righteousness.

The Point:
Jesus' resurrection fulfills the words of the prophets.
What a confusing, amazing time this must have been. The disciples had seen the crucifixion and knew that Jesus' body was placed in a tomb, yet they also knew the words of the prophets. Did they dare to hope that this was really the promised Messiah? They had dared to believe while they were with him, but believing that he has come back to life and is with them again is proving to be difficult.

Festivals & Seasons: White
White or gold is used for the celebration of Easter Sunday. The gold color symbolizes that this day is the "queen of feasts," unique in the entire church year. The rest of the Sundays following Easter also use white paraments, suggesting the joy of the resurrection. We continue in the Easter season until the day of Pentecost.

Prayer of Preparation:
Jesus, you appeared to the disciples, and you appear to us today, too. You are the fulfillment of the words of the prophets, and we are sent to bear witness and tell your story. Help us to believe. Amen.

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Lesson Plan

Into the Word

Prove It — 5 min.

Share a story about a story.

Supplies:

- Groupings Guide
- Materials for chosen cross+generational grouping

Preparation:

1. Determine how you would like to group participants at their tables (in a cross+generational grouping), using the Groupings Guide.
2. Prepare the materials indicated in the Guide.

Instructions:

1. Welcome the class and instruct them to group themselves cross+generationally according to the method you have selected from the Groupings Guide.
2. **If someone is alone, please introduce yourself, and invite them to join you. Young children who are not comfortable leaving their families should sit at a table with someone in their family.**
3. **Today, we continue learning about the time immediately following Jesus' resurrection. Jesus had told his disciples that he would come back, but they had a hard time believing that. And why not? No one had ever come back from the dead before! So even when Jesus had told them that this would happen, and even as the disciples began to encounter Jesus again, they still needed proof.**
4. **When has this happened to you? When have you heard a story that was so unbelievable that you told the speaker, "Prove it!" Share your unbelievable stories with your small group.**

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Seasons of the Word

Name Above All Names—Resurrection 10 min.

Create a class graffiti mural.

Supplies:

- Internet-connected devices
- Mural paper
- Markers or crayons
- Optional: list of names of Jesus

Preparation:

1. Provide a length of mural paper and markers or crayons for each group.
2. Make sure you have wireless access for participants. If not, use a printed list of the names of Jesus you find online.

Instructions:

1. **In the Bible, Jesus is known by a lot of different names. At least one of those names is specific to the Easter season: The Resurrection and the Life. Use your Internet-connected device to search for other "names of Jesus." What names do you find? What ones sound strange to you? Which is your favorite?** Allow participants to share their thoughts.
2. **Today, we are going to focus on Jesus as the Resurrection. As we continue through the weeks of Easter, we are going to look at some of the other names as well. Each week, we will make a graffiti mural illustrating the name.**
3. **This week, write the word "Resurrection" in the middle of your mural paper. Around that, you can graffiti other words or symbols that you think of when you hear the Jesus called the Resurrection. Work together to try, and fill your entire paper.**
4. Allow participants time to work and share what they have created. If you are able, keep these posted in the room through the next few weeks.

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Learning the Word

Jesus Appears — 20 min.

Tell the story with puppets.

Supplies:

- Bibles
- Activity Sheet A
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Brown paper lunch bags

Preparation:

1. Make one copy of Activity Sheet A for each person. Participants can either make one full set of puppets, or each small group or family can make one set to tell the story.

Instructions:

1. **Since Easter, we heard two amazing stories about Jesus—he was not dead! He has risen! Who can remember the details of last week's story?** *[Mary and the women go to find the tomb empty, they tell the disciples, Peter and John run to the tomb, Jesus calls Mary by name, Jesus appears in a locked room, Thomas does not believe that Jesus is alive until he touches him.]*
2. **The story that we heard last week was told by John. Today we are going to hear from Luke. Let's turn in our Bibles to Luke 24:36b-48. The "b" after the number 36 simply means that we are starting with the second half of verse 36.**
3. Invite volunteers to take turns reading the story.

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4. Distribute copies of Activity Sheet A, scissors, glue, lunch bags, and markers or crayons. Participants can each make a full set of puppets, or each small group or family can make one set. The faces get glued to the bags; the scroll and fish are props to help tell the story.
5. **Today, we are going to make some bag puppets to tell the story. You will cut out the faces and glue one onto each paper bag. Then, you can decorate the "body" of the bag to make the character's clothes. When you have your set of puppets made, retell the story in your small groups.**

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The Word in the World

You Are Witnesses — 10 min.

Learn to be a witness.

Supplies:

- Bibles

Instructions:

1. **Let's look at the last verse of our Gospel, Luke 24:48. What does that sentence say?** Invite one person to read the verse.
2. **What does it mean to be a witness to something? Where do you most often hear that word?** *[When someone is a witness to a crime, in a court proceeding, etc.]*
3. **The definition of the word witness is "to see, hear, or know by personal presence and perception." That means that in order to be a witness to something, you need to experience it yourself.**
4. **Jesus tells the disciples—and us—that we are witnesses to these things. We are witnesses to the story of Jesus' life—to the miracles, the teachings, and the death and resurrection of Jesus. We have seen it for ourselves!**
5. **What are ways that you have been a witness to Jesus? What have you seen and experienced for yourself that helps you know the story of Jesus is true?** Allow participants to share in their groups.
6. **Do you know what you just did? By telling others how you have seen Jesus and know that Jesus' story is true, you have been a witness to someone else about Jesus, too. This week, try and share your experience with Jesus with at least one other person. Because you, too, are witnesses to these things.**

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Beyond the Gospel

Behold What Manner of Love — 5 min.

Sing along to the verse.

Supplies:

- Bible
- Music player
- Optional: Internet-connected device

Preparation:

1. Find a version of the song "Behold What Manner of Love" with the tune by Patricia Van Tine.

Instructions:

1. **Today, we hear a verse from 1 John.** Read 1 John 3:1. **Some of you may recognize this from a popular Scripture song. It is a very simple song and can help us to learn this verse. Let's listen to the song, and when you think you know it, sing along.**
2. Play the song and let people join in when they are ready.

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Additional Activities

Believe It When I See It — 10 min.

Some things are hard to believe.

Supplies:

- *Ripley's Believe It or Not* books
- Optional: Internet-connected devices, projector

Preparation:

1. Depending on your capacity, either gather *Ripley's Believe It or Not* books, project images for the group, or invite them to search online on their own devices. If you choose to project images, search for them prior to class.

Instructions:

1. **How many of you have heard of *Ripley's Believe It or Not*?** Allow responses. **LeRoy Ripley became famous for finding strange—but true—stories. The stories and pictures were initially published in newspapers and on television and radio, but now there are museums around the world where you can see his collections.**
2. Invite participants to search online for images from *Ripley's Believe It or Not* or project images you have chosen. **What is it about the strange and unbelievable that is so fascinating to us?**
3. **Do you think you would have believed what you were seeing when Jesus came back from the dead? Or would you have had to see it for yourself before you could believe it? Would you believe it… or not?** Allow participant responses.

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Additional Activities

Fish Food **5 min.**

Share a fishy snack.

Supplies:

- Fish-shaped crackers
- Fish-shaped candy
- Napkins

Preparation:

1. Before serving any food, always check with participants or caregivers for students who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.
2. If your group is brave, include sardines, tuna, or pickled herring with your fish snacks.

Instructions:

1. **When Jesus appeared to the disciples, they had trouble believing that he was real and not a ghost. They did not believe because of their "joy and amazement"** (Luke 24:41).
2. **As we share our fish snack today, talk about a time that you were so joyful or amazed that you had trouble believing that what you were experiencing was real.**

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Additional Activities

Love Like a Child — 10 min.

Role play being child-like.

Supplies:

- None

Instructions:

1. **In our text from 1 John, we learn that we are God's children. What does it mean to be a child? How is being child-like different from being child-ish?** *[Childlike implies innocence and playfulness; childish implies spoiled and selfish.]*
2. **Let's practice being a child-like presence, rather than a childish one. We will hear some scenarios, and I want one volunteer to act child-like and a second volunteer to act childish. Let's try it.**
3. **Invite two volunteers forward for each scenario:**
    - **You are asked to share your favorite toy.** *[Childlike shares selflessly; childish throws a tantrum.]*
    - **Someone cuts in front of you in line.** *[Childlike is friendly; childish pushes and yells.]*
    - **Someone leaves you out of an important decision.** *[Childlike understands and is fine with the decision; childish gets worried and paranoid.]*
    - **A new person joins your church.** *[Childlike welcomes them effusively; childish turns away and will not let them be a part of your group.]*
4. **When you think back on these scenarios, what are traits that the childish people all shared? What are the traits that the childlike people all shared? Which type of person is Jesus calling us to be?**

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Sending

Say a closing prayer like a young child would pray, using simple words and thoughts.

Remember to send "The Word @ Home" take-home sheet with participants before dismissing them.

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Jesus Appears

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Jesus Appears

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Jesus Appears

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The Word @ Home

Easter 3
Gospel Reading: Luke 24:36b-48

The Point

Jesus' resurrection fulfills the words of the prophets.

Key Verse

"You are witnesses of these things."
– Luke 24:48

Scripture Summaries

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

Since Easter, we heard John's version of Jesus' appearances after his resurrection. Today, we hear from Luke. Immediately prior to today's reading is the story of Jesus appearing on the road to Emmaus. Now, while the disciples are still amazed and talking about Jesus' appearance, he is again with them and bringing words of peace. These disciples do not believe that this is Jesus, but think that he is a ghost. They have been raised on the words of the prophets, but need the proof of Jesus eating and his physical touch before they believe .

First Reading: Acts 3:12-19

Peter repeats the story of the arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Jesus. As in the Gospel text, Peter references the words of the prophets and reminds the hearers that they are now witnesses to the resurrection.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

God loves us so much that we are called God's children. Because of this gift of grace, we are forgiven and our sins are removed, freeing us to live in Jesus' righteousness.

Seasons & Festivals

White or gold is used for the celebration of Easter Sunday. The gold color symbolizes that this day is the "queen of feasts," unique in the entire church year. The rest of the Sundays following Easter also use white paraments, suggesting the joy of the resurrection. We continue in the Easter season until the day of Pentecost.

Discussion Starters

- **What is the most amazing thing that you have ever experienced?**
- **How do you think you would have reacted to seeing Jesus alive again?**
- **What does it mean to you to be God's child?**

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Prayer of the Week

Jesus, help us to believe and bear witness. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday	**Read Luke 24:36b-48** Jesus appears to the disciples. Eat goldfish crackers while listening to this story.
Monday	**Read 1 John 3:10-16** More about being a child of God. Talk about what it means to "lay down your life" for someone else.
Tuesday	**Read 2 John 1:6** Walk in love. Cut out paper hearts and lay them on the floor around the room. As you walk from heart to heart, name one way that you can show love for someone else.
Wednesday	**Read Psalm 150** Praise the Lord! Play instruments while you hear the words of this psalm.
Thursday	**Read Psalm 23:1-3** The Lord is my Shepherd, part 1. Illustrate these verses on a large piece of paper. Work together and keep the paper to continue the illustration for the rest of the psalm.
Friday	**Read Psalm 23:4** The Lord is my Shepherd, part 2. Illustrate these verses on a large piece of paper. Keep the paper to continue the illustration tomorrow.
Saturday	**Read Psalm 23:5-6** The Lord is my Shepherd, part 3. Complete your illustration of Psalm 23.

Blessing for the Week

Share this blessing while tracing a cross on each person's forehead or hand with their permission:
Go, be a witness.

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