

MEETING JESUS AGAIN AND AGAIN

Youth issue:
What do you believe
about Jesus and life
beyond death?

Focus Scripture: Luke 24:36b–48

Purpose: To acknowledge that confusion and amazement have a place in our faith

Preparation

Worship Table – **Yellow** cloth

Pictures and materials for story and activity are at the end of the lesson

Blindfold, snacks

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We light the Christ candle to remind us that God is always with us.

Easter Greeting

Parent: *Christ is risen.*

All: Christ is risen, indeed.

Opening Prayer

Parent: *Dear God,*

thank you for the gift of your son Jesus,

who rose from the dead to show us the power of your love.

Help us to recognize you in the sights and sounds around us,

in each other and in ourselves. (nod)

All: Alleluia! Amen.

Introducing the Theme – Word Brainstorm

In advance: Bring chart paper and a marker.

Let's make a list of the different ways that people your age express surprise, amazement, or disbelief. What do you say when you feel that way? ("No way," "Get outta here," "really?")

How does your body show those feelings? (wide-open eyes, startled body shake)

Write all of their suggestions on poster paper.

Exploring the Theme – Recognition Game

I need a volunteer to sit on a chair in the middle of the room. (Choose a person. Once they are seated on the chair, put the blindfold on them.)

(to one of the other family members) Please go up to (name of the person who is blindfolded). They can't see, so they'll have to use their other senses to figure out who you are. For example, you could give them information through the sense of touch by holding their hand or placing their hand on top of your head. Or you could make sounds such as laughing or say, "Guess who."

Play the game. Then switch so that different children are playing. Play until each child has had a turn in one of the roles.

I have a question for those of you who were blindfolded in the game: how did you identify who the person was? What clues did you use?

There are lots of clues that we can use to identify someone. Have you ever had the experience of thinking you saw someone you knew, but then realized it couldn't possibly be them because they live far away, or some other reason? Today's passage from the Gospel of Luke tells a story of how some of Jesus' followers had an experience similar to that.

Read Luke 24:36- 48.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you." But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?" So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish ^{bl}and some honeycomb. And He took it and ate in their presence.

The Scriptures Opened

Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.

Earlier, Jesus appeared to two of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. They didn't recognize him at first – not until he broke the bread at the supper meal. Then they hurried back to Jerusalem, where they found the other disciples gathered together.

*Why were the disciples so afraid when they first encountered Jesus? **(They couldn't believe it was Jesus.)** How did Jesus convince them? **(He showed them the wounds in his hands and feet; he let them touch him; he ate a piece of fish).** Why do you suppose Jesus ate something in front of them? **(perhaps ghosts can't eat food?)***

How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus was crucified? Why do you think it was so hard to convince the disciples that he was alive? Jesus appeared to his followers again and again. It took them a long time to believe that he had risen.

The disciples often gathered together over a meal to talk things over. Let's do that, too.

Spread out your “meal” and invite your children to eat. As you talk, encourage discussion with questions such as: *How hard is it for you to believe in the resurrection? If you had been one of the disciples, what would it have taken to convince you that Jesus had risen? What do you think happens to us when we die?*

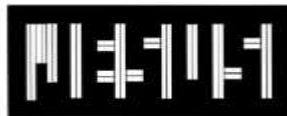
Allow this discussion to go on as long as the children seem interested in pursuing it.

Integrating the Theme – “An Amazing Sign”

In advance: Make copies of the “An Amazing Sign” resource sheet. Bring cardboard (such as cereal boxes), glue, wooden matches, scissors, and pliers with a cutting edge.

In today's Bible story, we heard about how the disciples were amazed when Jesus joined them in the locked room. We're going to make something amazing ourselves today.

Hand out the sheets. Read through the instructions with the students and answer any questions. When they are finished, they will have a sign that says “Jesus”. They may not see it at first but encourage them to keep trying – it is an optical illusion. Have the students mount their signs on cardboard and make stands, as shown on the resource sheet.



Closing Prayer – Passing the Peace

Parent: Peace be with you.

Child: And also with you.

Amen.

An Amazing Sign

Cut out the pattern below.

Use pliers or scissors to carefully cut the heads off wooden matches.

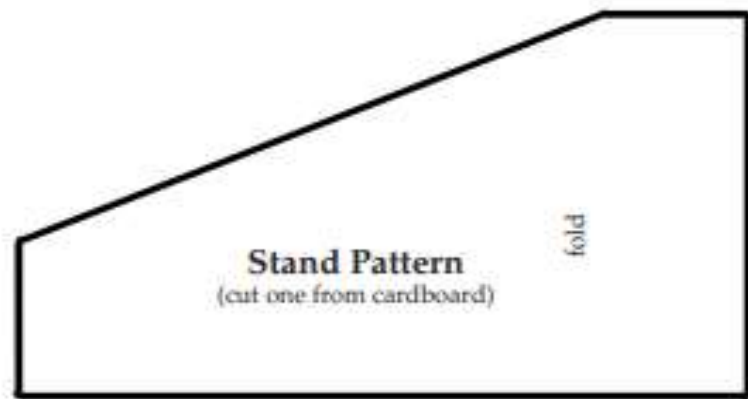
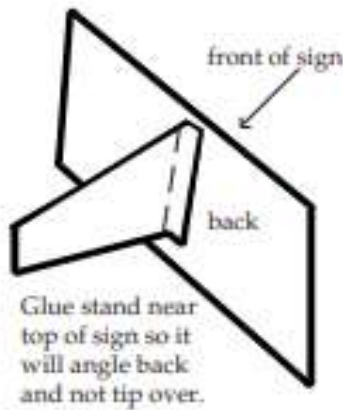
Cut the wooden match sticks to fit the white spaces on the pattern.

Glue the sticks to the pattern.

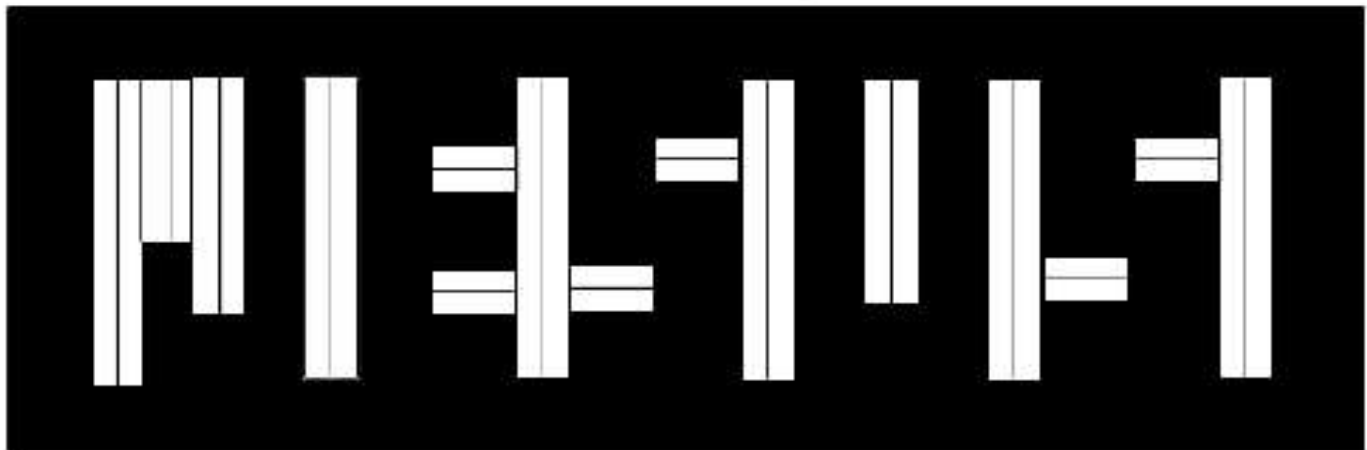
Glue your sign to a piece of cardboard.

Cut out a cardboard stand, and glue it to the back sign as shown.

Can you see what the sign says?



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bottom