***Sunday school materials - 25/04/2020***

***Jesus in unexpected places!***

***Footsteps.***

The aim of this session: To introduce the story of the Encounter with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. This story is one of the most famous stories of an encounter with Jesus. The people didn't even realise until afterwards that it was Jesus who was walking with them.

In these days, when our children are home for an extended period of time, isolated from normal interaction, let's pray that at the end of the time they would realise that it was Jesus who walked beside them. Let's believe that their hearts will burn within them so that they can trust in him forever.

***The unexpected meeting***

#### ***Equipment***

DVD of The Miracle Maker and the means to play it. Or use the clip in the link.

Summary of clip: In this clip, Jesus comes alongside two of his followers on the road to Emmaus.

Start of clip: 1:17:50

End of clip: 1:20:53

Length of clip: 3:03

OR:

There is a link to a YouTube clip here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wR4xhA4Mb6A> stop the clip at 4 minutes when the animation ends

Ask the children how the disciples must have been feeling at the beginning of the video clip. Why were the two going to another town? Why do you think Jesus didn’t tell them who he was straight away?

What does Jesus tell them on the walk? How do the two recognise him in the end? What do they do as soon as they recognise him? How do they feel at the end of the clip?

Are these two disciples changed by meeting Jesus on the road? Why? Why is this meeting more important than Jesus just having a chat with two of his friends? (It is one of the things that changes everything because it was proof that Jesus really did rise from the dead!)

The Point: To tell the story.

***Seeing Jesus in weird places!***

Gather the group together to look at some of the strange places where the image of Jesus has been found using the link below:

<https://www.beliefnet.com/faiths/galleries/10-strange-places-the-face-of-jesus-appeared.aspx>

Discuss with them the following:

* What do you think about these images?
* Do you think these are real or do you think someone has created them?
* Sometimes people ‘encounter’ Jesus in a strange place in that they feel His presence – has anyone ‘encountered’ Jesus like this e.g. in a thought, or a feeling etc.?
* If you could ask one thing of Jesus today what would it be and why?

Explain that today they are going to be looking at an encounter that two of Jesus’ disciples had with Him after He was dead. These men were not sure if He was alive or not, even though His body was missing from the tomb. Jesus meets with them on a walk and it is only later on in the encounter that the disciples recognise who the ‘stranger’ really is.

The Point: To introduce the topic of the session using modern images of where people have ‘seen’ Jesus’ face.

***Mixed emotions***

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#### ***Equipment***

Bibles, paper and pens, a large sheet of paper and marker pens.

Ask the young people if they have had the experience of seeing someone in their town or in their school who seems vaguely familiar but they haven’t been quite sure. Listen to any examples.

Now discuss with the young people if they ever had the experience, as a small child, of thinking they were holding onto one of their parent’s hands or leg only to discover, when they looked up to see the person’s face, that they have grabbed hold of the wrong person. How did they feel when they found their parent again?

Read through Luke 24:13-35 together.

Now give each of the young people a piece of paper and a pencil. Ask them to draw 5 ovals on their paper with plenty of space between each one.

Now they are to read through the Bible passage again but pausing after each set of verses.

* Verses 13-17
* Verses 18-24
* Verses 25-29
* Verses 30-31
* Verses 32-35

For each set of verses they are to draw on one of their ovals how the 2 friends must have been feeling at this point. So for the first set they would probably draw a very sad face. Although each person is to do their own drawing they can discuss what they are doing with a friend.

Next to each face they need to note down why they chose to draw the expression they did.

When everyone has finished ask them to share what they have thought and discovered.

Finally discuss with the young people what the long term impact of this encounter with the risen Jesus would have had on the two friends. Point out that they probably continued to experience the different emotions they drew on their sheets for the rest of their lives and other emotions too, it’s not like a fairy story ‘happy ever after’; but would this encounter have made a difference and if so in what way?

The Point: To encourage the young people to think about the long term implications of this encounter with Jesus.

***Write it on the bread***

#### ***Equipment***

Stale bread (or copies of the template) and pens.

*“Then the disciples from*

*Emmaus told what happened on the road and how they knew he was the Lord when he*

*broke the bread.” Luke 24:35*

Before the session you will need to prepare the bread! Leave out slices of white bread on a wire rack (cooling grid or grill pan rack) over night – the bread should dry out. Then paint with white paint to which you’ve added some PVA glue. (If you have time at the beginning of the session the young people could paint their own slices of dried bread.)

If you prefer not to use real bread then print off the bread template.

Read the memory verse together. Then everyone copy it out onto their piece of bread.

The Point: To learn a verse of Scripture reflecting the theme of this session.

***Worship***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qCO8XLs5TOY>

Or the rather more fun: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAh0avXdgJ0>