

Hello Families from St. Thomas

April 26, 2020

I'd like to welcome all new families to God's Garden. I will continue to send these weekly activities to all the email addresses that I have, but you may now also find this included on St. Thomas Stittsville web site. Please let me know your email address if you are new and would like your children to register in our free children's program at St. Thomas called God's Garden. godsgardenstt@gmail.com,

We are all trying to keep in touch with friends and families as best as we can through this time of isolation. We are learning new ways through technology, window signs, sidewalk chalk art, even just driving past and waving to someone special. Just remember that you don't have to go anywhere or do anything special to talk to God. Just think His Name! That's all, and He will hear your thoughts and feel your emotions. Wherever you are, whatever you are doing, He is waiting to share His peace with you. All you have to do is say His Name. I pray that through today's story you will also find Jesus walking along side you.

Since we are not meeting for our God's Garden classes, I will be sending you some ideas for the lesson of the week, including the Children's Story, which you can do at home. Perhaps you can choose one activity per day or more than one if you have the energy and time. You don't need to do them all, just choose the activities that intrigue you and adapt them to suit your circumstances.

Here are the week's suggestions for activities for this coming Sunday.

I encourage you to read the following Children's Story before you engage in the activities.

Above all enjoy your children and their responses and have fun with Jesus.

Blessings to all. Merilee Clarke 613-831-7704

'On The Road to Emmaus'

Theme: Jesus reveals himself to his followers.

Object: Blindfold for each child

Scripture: Luke 24:30-31

(Have several unusual noise makers hidden in a box beside you. Eg. Two spoons to tap together, scratching on the rug beside you, rubbing your hands together, the sound of air being blown through a straw. Blindfold each child. If children are uncomfortable with a blindfold, ask them to close their eyes.)

Our Bible lesson today tells an amazing story about a day when someone important walked and talked with Cleopas and his friend on the Road to Emmaus, but they didn't recognize Him or His voice. Let's see what that might have been like for the men on the Road to Emmaus.

(Make a noise and ask if they know what it is without seeing it.)

Here's what the special man said to them: "For hundreds of years, prophets have written about God's son coming to earth, dying on the cross and rising to life again on the third day. Today is the third day" Cleopas and his friend heard His voice but did not recognize it. Do you have any guesses of who they were talking to on the road that day?

(Allow kids to guess .)

These men on the road had just been through a really sad time. They knew Jesus had died on the cross so He would not have been their first guess of who they were talking to on the road. Jesus had to open their eyes to see it was Him. So He prayed to God. When they heard Jesus pray.....their eyes opened wide. Suddenly they recognized Jesus!!! They remembered that today was the third day. The day Jesus promised to come alive again. Wow what an amazing discovery. How wonderfully exciting that Jesus chose to show that He was alive to an ordinary man like Cleopas and to his friend whom we don't even know his name.

Who knows....maybe the next person He will come to is you!

(Instruct kids to hold the blindfold over their eyes. Guide them to take the blindfold off their eyes when you say, "Open our eyes" in the prayer.)

God, thank you that Jesus died so our sins could be forgiven. Not only did He die, but He defeated death and rose to life again. Thank You that Jesus is alive and working in the world today. Open our eyes, (kids take off blindfolds) because we want to see Jesus! In Jesus' name we pray, amen . (the word 'amen' means; I agree.)

Remember, that even in this time of Clovid19, you just need to say His name and He will bring you peace in your heart.

On the Road to Emmaus Group Activities

Sermon Title: ["On the Road to Emmaus"](#) or ["Open Our Eyes, Lord"](#)

Scripture Reading: Luke 24:13-35 'Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him. '

"SEEING" our Bible Verse:

Write the Bible verse, "Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him." (Luke 24:31a) in very small print on several pieces of paper on the wall of the classroom. Give each child a turn at using binoculars from across the room to find and read the Bible verse (pictures) on one of those small pieces of paper. (If children are too young to read, they can use the binoculars to find the word JESUS written in tiny print somewhere on the classroom wall, or print several small pictures of Jesus from your computer's clip art.)

"SEEING" Game:

Give each child an opportunity to DO SOMETHING while the other children observe them and try to detect what they are doing. (Suggest to the children that they do SMALL motions such as wink an eye, move one finger, move a toe, wiggle an ear, wag their tongue.) When a child feels he can guess, he says, "I SEE, I SEE"! If children cannot guess

what the other child is doing after several tries, then the children will "need help in seeing", just as was taught in our lesson today.

SEEING outside:

If weather permits and the teacher chooses to allow for outside time for class, the children can take turns SEE THINGS that they have never seen or noticed before. (Like the veins in a leaf or how many legs a ladybug has.)The BIBLE VERSE today could be shared outside and written in various colors of CHALK on the parking lot.

CHALK "SEEING":

Take the children outside and let them draw a big pair of eye glasses on the parking lot before the teacher begins the Bible lesson. After the lesson, have a discussion about what the disciples had trouble seeing and understanding in today's lesson.

BIBLE VERSE HUNT:

This activity can be done indoors or outdoors. The teacher will have words from today's Bible Verse written on several pictures or drawings of eye glasses. These will be hidden and the children try to find the glasses with words from the Bible verse on them and put them in order. The children will then try to memorize the verse together.

EYE SEEING CHART:

Let the children make an EYE CHART, similar to one in a eye doctor's office. The letters on the first line will be BIG, the letters on the second line will be a little smaller, the letters on the 3rd line will be a little smaller. The TITLE might be "SEEING JESUS". The teacher might write the words on a chalk board for the children to copy. Suggestions: JESUS HELPS US TO SEE AND UNDERSTAND OUR LIVES, or JESUS HELPS ME UNDERSTAND SEE CLEARLY WHEN I AM CONFUSED, or JESUS HELPS ME SEE THAT HE LOVES ME AND THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR! For younger children, the teacher can

have the letters lightly drawn for the children to trace over the above words on their eye charts! Or..

"SEEING" MINI TREATS:

The teacher will hide very small pieces of candy that the children may have to try HARD to "SEE" the treats with or without the help of binoculars!

WALKING WITH JESUS:

Have the children cut out several tracings of feet and give them to a helper who can put these cut out "feet" on a long path around a designated area. At the end of the "feet path", the children will read what is written on the final FOOT which could be today's Bible verse, "Jesus walks with us." or just the word JESUS!

JESUS JEWELRY:

Give the children letter beads and a bracelet ribbon or plastic thread, to string a bracelet that can say, FOLLOW JESUS or I SEE JESUS to wear as a witness for Jesus and to tell others about today's story!

GRAHAM CRACKER ROAD:

For a story snack today, let children spread peanut butter on some graham crackers and sprinkle with cookie crumbs to represent a road with dirt on it. Gummy bears or something similar could be used to represent people walking on that graham cracker "road" if desired!

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On the Road to Emmaus



Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called _____, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, _____ himself came up and _____ along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly _____; the _____ is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

When he was at the _____ with them, he took _____, gave _____, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their _____ were _____ and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

Luke 24:13-16, 28-31 (NIV)

bread	Emmaus	eyes	opened	thanks
day	evening	Jesus	table	walked

