

Open Our Eyes, Lord



Theme: On the Road to Emmaus. Third Sunday in Easter

Object: Optical illusion poster. ([click here](#))

Scripture: When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. Luke 24:30-31 (NIV)

I have a couple of pictures to show you this morning. Here is the first picture. (Show the tree illusion.) What do you see? How many of you see a tree? Did anyone see anything besides a tree? Did anyone see a gorilla? If you didn't see a gorilla, look here on the left side of the picture. (Point to the gorilla.) Can everyone see it? Does anyone see anything besides the tree and the gorilla? How about a lion? Does anyone see a lion? Look here on the right side of the picture. (Point to the lion.) Now do you see it? So, if you look at this picture, you will see three different things—a tree, a gorilla, and a lion.

Here is the second picture. (Show the duck/rabbit picture.) What do you see? Does anyone see a rabbit? That is easy, isn't it? Here is the nose, an eye, and here are the ears. Does anyone see anything other than a rabbit? Oh, I see a duck! Here is the head and here is the duck's bill. It is interesting how the picture changes depending on how you look at it!

Sometimes, like in these pictures, we don't always see what is really there. It was easy to see the tree, but we might not see the gorilla or the lion until we look at the picture for a few minutes. The same thing is true of the rabbit and the duck. We might not see one or the other. Our Bible lesson today is about two men who had some difficulty in recognizing Jesus as he joined them as they were walking to a village called Emmaus.

On the very same day that Jesus was raised from the grave, two of his followers were walking to Emmaus and talking about everything that happened over the past several days. As they walked along, Jesus joined them, but the Bible tells us that they were kept from recognizing him.

"What are you discussing as you walk along?" Jesus asked the men.

"Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know that has happened the past few days?" one of the men replied.

"What things?" Jesus asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "Our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to die. They crucified him and buried him. Now, some we saw some women and they told us that they went to his tomb this morning and they did not find his body. They told us that an angel appeared to them and told them the Jesus was alive."

They continued walking and talking to Jesus. As they approached the village, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther, but the men urged him to stay with them since the day was almost over. Jesus agreed and stayed with them. As they sat down at the table to eat, Jesus took the bread, gave thanks,

and gave it to them. When he did this, their eyes were opened and they recognized that it was Jesus, then he disappeared from their sight.

Sometimes, we don't see the whole picture at first—like when we looked at the illusions at the beginning of this lesson—and as the men in our Bible lesson didn't recognize Jesus. You and I might not always see that Jesus is walking beside us, but He is there, walking with us and caring for us.

Father, open our eyes that we might recognize that Jesus is with us as we walk through life's journey. We trust in him as he guides us in our daily walk and it is in his name we pray. Amen.

"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 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.)

"SEEING" our Bible lesson: After the story today has been told, the teacher will bring the children to a designated area and ask them questions about the story that they'll need to find with the binoculars. (The answers will be written in VERY small print around the room for children to find and read with their binoculars.)

"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 can not 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 using a binocular to SEE THINGS far away that they have never seen or noticed before. 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 MORE 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!

"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 drawing—which could be today's Bible verse, 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!

On the Road to Emmaus



- Theme:** Jesus reveals himself to his followers. (Third Sunday of Easter)
- Object:** Image of Jesus graphic. ([Click here](#) for a page that you can print out and make a copy for each child.) You could also use a stereogram or one of those plaques that you stare at until the name of Jesus appears.
- Scripture:** When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. Luke 24:30-31 (NIV)

This morning I have a picture for each of you. (Give a picture to each child) I want you to stare at the four small dots right in the middle of the picture. Concentrate and stare at the dots while I count to fifteen, then close your eyes. When you close your eyes, a white spot will appear and there may be a picture inside of that white spot. Let's try it and see what happens. Are you ready? Okay, concentrate! One, two, three.....(to fifteen) Now, close your eyes and keep them closed. Do you see anything? You may open your eyes now. How many of you saw the face of Jesus? Some people have a little trouble seeing it at first, so if at first you don't see the face of Jesus, keep trying and eventually you will see his face.

Our Bible lesson today tells an amazing story about a day when Jesus walked and talked with some of his followers, but they didn't even recognize him. Here is what happened.

After Jesus was crucified and risen from the grave, two of his followers were walking on the road that led to a town called Emmaus. They were sad and were talking about what had happened to Jesus. Suddenly, Jesus joined the disciples and walked along with them, but they did not know who he was because God kept them from recognizing him.

"You seem to be having a very serious discussion. What are you talking about?" Jesus asked them.

One of the men answered, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem that doesn't know what has happened the past few days," Then they told them about how Jesus had been crucified, and buried, and that some women had gone to his tomb, but the tomb was empty. "We have heard that he is alive," they said, "but we have not seen him."

"Do you find it so difficult to believe what was written by the prophets in the Scripture?" Jesus asked. "It was predicted by the prophets that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his time of glory." Then Jesus quoted passages from the writings of the prophets, explaining what the Scriptures said about himself.

By this time, they had come to Emmaus and the disciples invited Jesus to stay with them since it was getting too late in the day to travel. So Jesus stayed with them and when they sat down to eat, Jesus took the bread and blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened and they saw that it was Jesus. Then just as quickly as he had appeared to them, Jesus disappeared.

They were so happy and excited to have seen Jesus that they ran back to Jerusalem to tell the others that they had seen Jesus.

Do you want to see Jesus? The Bible says, "You will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul." (Deuteronomy 4:29) Oh, he may not appear to you in the same way he did to the disciples in our story, but If you study God's Word and seek him with all your heart, he will

reveal himself to you.

Dear Lord, open our eyes, we want to see Jesus! In Jesus' name we pray, amen.