

# Is it Jesus, or a Ghost?



**Theme:** Jesus appears to the Disciples. 3rd Sunday of Easter

**Object:** None is needed.

**Scripture:** While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. Luke 24:36-37 (NIV)

I remember times when I was a youngster when I went on camping trips. One of the favorite activities on those trips was sitting around a campfire at night and telling ghost stories. Even though I kept telling myself, "There is no such thing as a ghost," that didn't keep some of those stories from scaring the daylights out of me, and they often made it difficult for me to go to sleep that night.

Now, that might seem like a strange way to begin a Bible lesson, but even in Bible times, some people believed in ghosts and were afraid of them. Today's Bible lesson is one example of that.

The story begins after two men had walked along a road to a place called Emmaus. They were discussing the crucifixion of Jesus and all of the events that had taken place in the past few days. They wondered what it all meant. As they walked, they were joined by a man on their walk. They did not recognize that the man was Jesus. There is much more to that part of the story, but it is enough for now that we know that Jesus revealed himself to them. Finally, they recognized that the man was Jesus. They were so excited to see that Jesus was alive that they jumped up and walked all the way back to Jerusalem.

The two men found Jesus' disciples and began telling them what they had seen. The Bible tells us that as they said these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be to you." Do you think the disciples felt peace? No! The Bible says that they were terrified and filled with fear, thinking that they had seen a ghost!

Once again Jesus spoke to his disciples. "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it's really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don't have bodies, as you see that I do."

Still the disciples stood in disbelief, so Jesus asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of fish, and he ate it as they watched. That was even further proof that they were not seeing a ghost. A ghost doesn't need food.

The disciples had seen Jesus die. They had seen him placed in a tomb. But now they saw Jesus alive. Not just this day, but for more than 40 days, they saw him and talked with him. They even watched him eat food. They were not seeing a ghost! Those same disciples went all over the

world, telling the story of Jesus' crucifixion, his death, and his resurrection. They never stopped telling the story during their whole lives.

You and I have been called to tell the story just like those disciples. We must be a witness for Jesus, too. We must tell the world that Jesus is alive.

Our Father, we serve a risen Saviour. He is alive! Help us to be witnesses of what he has done in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**JESUS PUZZLE:** The teacher will write the word JESUS in very large balloon letters and cut them out. Decorate each letter differently from the other letters. Cut each letter into three pieces and spread them around a designated area of the class room. The children will hunt for the letters and put them in the right order to spell JESUS.

**FOOTPRINTS TO FOLLOW:** Each child can trace their shoes and cut out 2 footprints. Each team can place their footprints in a long path for the other team to follow and see which team gets to their destination first.

**NO DOUBTING POSTER:** The class can work together to make a poster for today's lesson. One group can paint happy faces on the poster, another group can cut out hand tracings to glue to the poster and a third group can draw and cutout small red hearts to glue onto the cutout hands. A fourth group can paint or color stencil letters for, JESUS IS ALIVE, NO DOUBT! (If class is smaller, each child can do one section).

**CRAFT STICK DISCIPLES:** Children can be given construction paper to make faces and clothes to glue or tape on their craft sticks to make all the disciples and JESUS to then use those to do a skit for today's lesson.

**APPEARING ART:** Provide children with heavy white card stock paper and a white color crayon. Children can trace a picture of JESUS or words from today's lesson. Children can then use water colors of various colors to paint over their paper to have their art work displayed.

**HANDS LOVE CARD:** Children can be given paper to trace their hands on a card, and draw red hearts in the middle. They can form the hands into a card and decorate and write words of God's love to share with someone else.

**JESUS IS ALIVE BOOK MARK:** Construction paper, stickers, and markers can be given to children to be cut to the size of a book mark that is desired. This book mark should be folded length wise. One side can say, JESUS IS ALIVE. and the other side could have letters to say, NO DOUBT!

## Open Mind — Open Heart



**Theme:** Having open minds and hearts to sharing the Gospel; Easter 3

**Object:** A hidden word puzzle ([click here](#))

**Scripture:** Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. Luke 24:45-47 (NIV)

Do you enjoy puzzles? I like puzzles—especially word puzzles. Word jumbles are my favorites. That is a puzzle where the letters of a word are all mixed up and you have to figure out what the word is. Sometimes it is easy to figure the word out. Other times I will look and look and can't figure out what the word is. Then, all of a sudden, it seems my mind is opened and the word is clear to me.

We have a word puzzle for you today. The letters are not mixed up. The word is just hard to see. I am going to hold it up and show it to you. If you see the word, don't say what it is until everyone has had time to figure out what the word is. (Hold up the puzzle and wait for a short time.) If you can see the word, raise your hand. Who can tell us what the word is? That's right, the answer is Jesus!

This puzzle reminds me of something that happened in our Bible lesson today. The Bible tells us that Jesus appeared to some of his disciples and said, "Peace be with you." The disciples were afraid and weren't sure what they were seeing. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

Seeing that they were afraid, Jesus said to them, "Why are you troubled? Why do you have doubts? Look at my hands and my feet. Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones like I have."

Jesus could see that they still weren't convinced, so he asked them, "Do you have anything to eat?" They gave him a piece of fish and he ate it as they watched.

Then Jesus opened their minds so that they could understand the Scriptures. He taught said, "It was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer, die, and be raised from the dead on the third day. It was written so that this message would be told to every nation, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.' You are witnesses of all these things."

As Jesus opened the minds of his disciples, let us pray that he will open our hearts and minds to spread the Good News to everyone we know that Jesus died, was buried, and rose again so that we could have forgiveness of sin.

Heavenly Father, open our minds to understand your Word, open our hearts to live your Word, open our lips to share the Word with others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**BEAN BAG TOSS:** Let the children take turns tossing a bean bag into a container as the teacher calls out a word or thought from today's lesson, such as words from the Gospel story or how to have an open mind! If the bean bag goes INTO the basket or container, that team gets a point. A variation of this activity is to have the children sit in a circle and toss a bean bag to another child as a word is called out words from today's lesson.

**GOSPEL TRACT:** Provide the children with construction paper, markers, stickers and glitter to create several pages of a Gospel tract to share with each other and then take home to share with someone else.

**GOSPEL IN CHALK:** This activity can use a large chalk board or can be done with sidewalk chalk in an area of the parking lot. Provide the children with colored chalk and let them draw pictures to depict the Gospel story from today's lesson. After the children have drawn their pictures, let them take turns in telling the Gospel story to each other.

**HEART PUZZLE:** Let the children decorate a very large heart drawn on a piece of poster board. After they have finished, the teacher will cut the heart into pieces to create a jigsaw puzzle. Let the children try to put the heart puzzle together again.

**LACED HEART:** Provide the children with construction paper to cut out two identical hearts and use a hole punch to punch holes around the sides and bottom of the heart. Using string or yarn, lace the two hearts together leaving the top open to form an envelope. Place slips of paper with

pictures and words depicting today's Gospel lesson into the top of the heart as be a reminder of opening their hearts to the Gospel.

**JESUS PUZZLE:** The teacher will write the word JESUS in very large balloon letters and cut them out. Decorate each letter differently from the other letters. Cut each letter into three pieces and spread them around a designated area of the class room. The children will hunt for the letters and put them in the right order to spell JESUS.

**ENVELOPE PUZZLE:** The teacher will write words from today's Bible verse on a sheet of paper and decorate it around the edges. Cut the sheet of paper into a few pieces, depending on the age of the children, and place into an envelope for each child to try to piece the puzzle together.