

Easter - The road to Emmaus

I wonder if anything unexpected has ever surprised you? Maybe like a sudden hail storm on a sunny day or when an unexpected gift arrives in the post or on your doorstep. In today's story we meet two men, both very sad about what has happened to their friend Jesus when something very unexpected happens!



Watch our video: <https://youtu.be/c51h27cek70> or older children may enjoy this animated version of the story: <https://youtu.be/K3QkZsKLU2o>

Read the story together in Luke 24:13-35 or a children's Bible story book.

I wonder what surprised you most about this story?

I wonder why you think Jesus didn't tell the two men who he was straight away?

I wonder how the men felt when they realised it was Jesus?

I wonder how you think the men were changed by their encounter with Jesus?

I wonder what God might be saying to you through this story?

Pray together - why not imagine you are there in the story. Sit together around a table and share some bread or go for a prayer walk together. The two men didn't know it was Jesus with them as they walked but their 'hearts were warmed' as he spoke and explained the scriptures and they only realised it was Jesus when he blessed and broke the bread. Spend a few minutes imagining you are there with Jesus; what would you like to ask him? What is Jesus saying to you?

Dear Jesus, please help us to know you are with us and can help us, even if we can't see you with our own eyes. Thank you for the amazing unexpected things that you do, things we could never do by ourselves. This week we ask that we may see amazing unexpected things happening to help us, help others and to help the world. Amen

If you go for a prayer walk, after you have spent some time imagining you are with Jesus, why not then thank God for the things you see and enjoy and pray for the homes and people that you pass as you walk?

Play a game of unexpected stories - either take it in turns or play together to come up with unexpected outcomes to the situations suggested below. The more unexpected, the better!

- Pouring cereal into a bowl.
- Opening a letter.
- Diving into a pool.
- Opening the front door.
- Going to the supermarket.
- Opening your eyes first thing in the morning.

So, for example: When I started to pour cereal into my bowl this morning, I was expecting Cheerios to come out. But, instead, teeny, tiny pigs poured out into the bowl. And they were real pigs! They all clambered over each other and jumped down onto the table and then onto the floor. There were so many of them that they lifted my chair up and carried it (and me) out of the door and down the street - still in my pyjamas.....

Make candle holders or biscuits!

***"When Jesus talked with us along the road... didn't it warm our hearts?"
Luke 24:32***

I love this verse! Even though they didn't recognise Jesus with their heads it was as if their hearts did! And when we walk with Jesus and know him as our friend, he 'warms' our hearts too. We can know that he is by our side helping us, guiding us, teaching us and filling our hearts with his love! Isn't that wonderful? So here are a couple of things you could do to remind you of this:

- Make a candle holder from salt dough. Make up some salt dough (recipe is below) and make it into a chunky heart shape. Push a tea light into the middle to make a hole for it, wiggle it slightly and then take it out. Decorate the candle holder using a pencil to make patterns or add beads or sequins. Leave to dry.



- Make heart shaped biscuits - use your favourite biscuit recipe or the one below. Make up the biscuit dough and roll it out. Use a heart shaped cutter to cut out the biscuits. If you don't have a cutter, cut a heart shape from cardboard (cereal packet card would work well) and then carefully cut around the heart shape with a knife. Bake as directed in the recipe and then decorate (if you want to) and eat when cool!



SALT DOUGH RECIPE (Do not eat!)

You will need: 2 cups of plain flour, 1 cup of table salt, 1 cup of water.

Optional: 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil (makes it a little easier to knead), 1 tablespoon of wallpaper paste (gives the mixture more elasticity), 1 tablespoon of lemon juice (makes the finished product harder).

To make: Put plain flour, salt and any, or all, of the optional ingredients into a mixing bowl and gradually add the water, mixing to soft dough. This should be neither too sticky, in which case add more flour, nor too dry, in which case add more water. When mixed remove from the bowl, place on a flat surface and knead for 10 minutes to help create a smooth texture.

HEART BISCUITS RECIPE (These you can eat!)

100g butter, softened

225g self-raising flour

100g caster sugar

1 egg, beaten

1 tablespoon milk

Preheat the oven to 190°C/fan 170°C/gas 5.

Grease and line two baking trays with non-stick baking paper.

Put the butter and flour in a bowl and rub together until mixture looks like breadcrumbs.

Add sugar, egg and milk.

Bring the dough together using your hands (add a little more milk if needed) and chill for about 30 minutes.

Roll out thinly on a floured work surface and cut out the heart shapes.

Place biscuits on prepared baking trays.

Bake for 10-15 minutes until pale golden brown and firm in the middle.

Place on a wire rack to cool.

