

Sunday School Home Activities - Week of April 19, 2020

Check out some of the activities you and your families can do at home this week!



Watch this week's Deep Blue Sunday School Video: Amplify Media, a resource from the United Methodist Publishing House, is offering several free online videos and resources for churches. Click the link below to watch the Deep Blue Connects Spring 2020 videos. This week is Episode 8 (E8: Emmaus).
<https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify/series/unitedmethodistpublishinghouse/33162-deep-blue-connects-adventure-spring-2020>



Try this Family Devotion with your family!

Read: Easter (Luke 24:13-35)

Bible Story Focus: We believe that Jesus is alive and always with us.

Wonder Together: Why do you think the disciples didn't recognize Jesus?

Memory Verse: "Hosanna! Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:9b)

Pray Together: Share joys and concerns, and then pray, Dear God, thank you for Jesus. We are so grateful that Jesus is alive and always with us. Amen.

Ages 5–Grade 2

Hear and See the Bible Story

SAY: We are learning stories about what happened in Jesus' community after Easter. Today's Bible story is about two men who met a stranger while they were walking down the road.

- Tell the children the story, "The Road to Emmaus" (*Read Luke 24:13-35*). Refer to the Background for this Week's Bible Story at the end of the Sunday School activities.
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 8 on [amplifymedia.com](https://my.amplifymedia.com).
- Act out the story. Take turns playing different roles.

ASK: How can you share the story of Easter? How do you serve others? How might your serving other people remind them of Jesus? How have other people reminded you of Jesus? What do you think we can learn about community from this story?

Family Time: Wonder Together

Play an imagination game.

Ask one another, "If I were in disguise, would you be able to recognize me?"

Answer one another, "I would recognize you because..."

Who Am I? Game

- Together come up with names of people who are familiar to you. Try to come up with the same number of names as there are people. Write each name on a sticky note.
- Have one person be the guesser who stands or sits in front of the others. Place one of the sticky notes on the person's forehead. Make sure everyone can read the name, but don't say the name out loud.
- Have the guesser ask the group a question to help determine whose name is on the sticky note.
- Allow the guesser to ask questions until he or she guesses correctly. If the guesser has asked ten questions without a correct guess, the everyone may tell him or her the answer.

Rock Coloring

- Give each person a small stone. Write a phrase such as "God loves you!" or "God is with you!" on his or her stone using a permanent marker. Then, decorate the stones.
- Go on a walk with your family and place the stones around your neighborhood so that people who see the stones will be reminded of God's love.

Adapted from Deep Blue Connects Loving God, Loving God, Loving Neighbor, Spring 2020 Early Elementary Session 8



Grades 3-5

Hear and See the Bible Story

SAY: Today, we are learning a story that took place after Jesus' resurrection. Today's Bible story is about a journey that some of Jesus' disciples took.

- Read the Bible story together (Luke 24:13-35).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 8 on [amplifymedia.com](https://my.amplifymedia.com).

Ask: How long did Jesus walk with the two disciples before they recognized him? How did the disciples react when they realized Jesus' true identity? When have you been surprised by someone you didn't expect to see? Imagine that you are one of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Do you think you would have recognized Jesus? How would you have reacted once you realized who he was?

Charades

In today's story, the disciples didn't recognize Jesus because they did not expect to see him. Play a game of picture charades to remind yourselves what it is like to see something that you may not be expecting to see.

Take turns being the person to draw, and also take turns coming up with what the person doing the drawing will draw.



God Sightings – Spiritual Practice

In today's Bible story, the two disciples do not recognize Jesus, even though they were actually talking about him as they walked. That might seem strange, but people often fail to see what they do not expect.

Sometimes we fail to see God's presence in our lives. God is present with us, but because we are often not expecting to experience God's presence, we often fail to recognize that the good happening all around us or through us is from God. One way we can get better at this is by making a goal to look for God's actions and presence in our daily lives.

- Practice thanking God for good things in your life first thing in the morning and in your prayers at bedtime.
- Thank God for something good when you hear an alarm or other sound during the day.
- This practice is also sometimes called God Sightings. Share how you are seeing God and good in the world during the pandemic with your church family. Visit our website to learn more <https://www.myfaithunited.org/god-sightings-looking-for-hope-during-the-pandemic/>

Adapted from Deep Blue Connects Loving God, Loving God, Loving Neighbor, Spring 2020 Older Elementary Session 8

Nursery, Toddlers and Preschool

Jesus Lives! John 20:1, 11-18

Hear the Bible Story *Tell the Bible story to the children. Act out the story.*

Praise: Give each person a streamer, piece of ribbon or paper. Play your favorite hymn or praise music and dance and sing and wave your streamers in praise of God's goodness.

PRAY TOGETHER: Dear God, thank you for Jesus! Alleluia! Jesus is alive! Alleluia! Amen.

Resurrection Walk: Go for a walk around your backyard or neighborhood, practicing safe physical distancing. Point out signs of new life (plants growing,

birds singing, flowers blooming, new building, etc). Encourage the children to look for signs of new life too. Explain that these signs of new life remind us of Jesus and Easter.



Adapted from Deep Blue Nursery, Spring 2020 Session 8

Background for this Week's Elementary Ages Bible Story:

The Gospels contain multiple stories of Jesus' post-resurrection appearances. Of these, the appearance on the road to Emmaus is one of the most detailed. Two of Jesus' disciples are walking to Emmaus. These two men, one of whom is named Cleopas, are among the extended group of Jesus' followers, but not part of the twelve of Jesus' closest disciples. The location of Emmaus is unknown. Scholars have proposed three possible locations within 7 to 20 miles of Jerusalem.

It was the first day of the week—the day of Jesus' resurrection—and as the two disciples walked along, they were discussing everything that had happened. Then Jesus joined them, but the men did not recognize him. In response to Jesus' question concerning what they were talking about, the men proceeded to tell him about Jesus and the past week's events. As readers, we can appreciate the irony in the question one of the disciples asked Jesus, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?" We know that, in fact, Jesus is the only one who truly knows and understands what has happened!

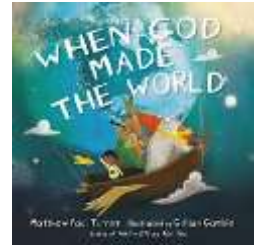
When the trio reached Emmaus, Jesus acted as if he were going on. Jesus was following hospitality etiquette of the time. In Near Eastern cultures a guest was obligated to turn down an invitation of hospitality until it was vigorously repeated. The two disciples insisted, and Jesus accepted their offer of hospitality. As they shared a meal, Jesus "took" the bread, "blessed" it, "broke" it, and "gave" it to them. These "actions" are Jesus' signature; these same verbs are used in the telling of the feeding of the five thousand and the sharing of the Lord's Supper. It is through Jesus' actions, rather than his words, that these two disciples finally recognized him.

As Jesus' followers, our actions often have a bigger impact than our words. Do our actions show others that we believe in and follow Jesus?

From Deep Blue Connects Loving God, Loving God, Loving Neighbor, Spring 2020 Early Elementary Session 8

Family Activities for All Ages:

Note: Prior to starting any activity, be sure to sanitize hands and all supplies. Be sure to practice safe physical distancing.



- Listen to the story, *When God Made the World*, read by the author, Matthew Paul Turner.
- Download this free copy of the Book of Genesis from the Common English Deep Blue Kids Bible. Read the story of creation in Genesis 1. Reflect on Genesis 1:31, *"God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good."* Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to be a caretaker of God's creation.
<https://www.commonenglishbible.com/files/uploads/DeepBlueKidsBiblesampleGenesis-3.pdf>
- Make **cards for Hartville Migrant Ministry migrant workers**. Because we will not be meeting in person for our Wednesday Night Faith Connection spring mission project to pack Welcome Bags for Hartville Migrant Ministry, make cards to welcome the migrant workers. Mail your card to the church and we will deliver them with the monetary donations to help provide 12 Welcome Bags!
- **Look for Easter**, look for signs of new life and resurrection! We also call these **God Sightings**, looking for our good God in the world! Share the God Sightings you find with us. <https://www.myfaithunited.org/god-sightings-looking-for-hope-during-the-pandemic/>
- **Plant Something!** Inspired by an article written by John S. that you can find on our Worship by Wire website, go plant something in celebration of Christ's Resurrection. John encourages us all to *"...plant something, if only one seed, wherever you call home! Perhaps your seed will grow into something good to eat, a beautiful Flower to feed the pollinators of our food, or a tree. What better way to Celebrate Resurrection?"*
- Did you know that **Creation Care is a Spiritual Practice**? We honor God when we love, nurture, and are good stewards of God's creation. Make a list of some ways that you can practice taking care of the earth. Begin with one item on your list. As you incorporate that one way of taking care of the earth into your daily life, pray about how you are honoring God as you are taking care of the earth. Thank God for the gift of creation and our amazing world and the privilege we have to be caretakers of God's world. Learn more about this spiritual practice here - <https://faithumchurch.wordpress.com/2020/04/18/faith-and-the-environment-creation-waits/>
- Sunday School Teacher, Libby Blake's Card Sending Idea, the **Quarantine Correspondence Challenge**: I often get packets of cards from various charities and rarely use them. I'd like to challenge those who have any kind of greeting or note cards to open their address books and start sending one a day. When I was undergoing cancer treatment, Terry, my college roomie and life-long friend sent me a card-a-day for over two months! She used up all the miscellaneous cards she had bought over the years and had never sent. It was hilarious to receive cards with messages that had nothing to do with my situation! I am a card maker in my spare time. My goal is to end this quarantine time, no matter how long, with NO CARDS LEFT! I'd love to know if you'll give this a try and also if you hear back!
- Make some **'Alleluia!' or 'Jesus Loves You!' signs**. Hang them in your windows or go for a family drive and share your message signs through your vehicle windows.
- Share an **Easter blessing** with your family members in your home or via Zoom or FaceTime. Say to each person, _____, God loves you and is with you always. Then pray together, Dear God, thank you for Jesus! Help us to celebrate Jesus today and every day. Amen.
- **Pray the LORD'S PRAYER** each day at noon. Create a video of your family praying the Lord's Prayer that we could share as encouragement for others. Let me know if you are interested!
- Use, individually or as a family, the worship resources connected with Sunday and Wednesdays Worship by Wire. Visit our website for updated resources: <https://www.myfaithunited.org/worship-by-wire/>
- Share pictures or videos of some of the activities you and your family are doing while practicing physical distancing with church staff. What you share may inspire someone else!