

# HTHQ Sunday Club at Home (25 April 2020)

Theme for church-at-home this week:

*Moments of revelation – how Jesus takes time to explain his own story*

## 1. Gather

*Pray*

Jesus of Nazareth,  
we all come with our own stories to tell,  
we've all made different journeys here,  
but we all come to hear your story  
and to understand how our stories and journeys fit with yours.  
Walk and talk with us, Lord Jesus. **Amen.**

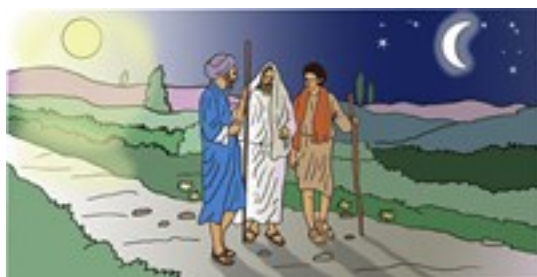
## 2. Read the Word

*Context*

People often love to share their personal stories, and some people write them down. When people write a book about their life, it is called an autobiography. What kind of things might a person put in a book about their life? The Bible passage we have today helps show us that Jesus takes time to tell his own story.

*Ask the young people to find a space where they can sit comfortably. Invite everyone to close their eyes and try to imagine they are walking along the road listening to Jesus telling his story. Encourage people to focus on imagining the atmosphere: the smells, the sounds, how they would feel. What would they ask? As the young people are in that quiet place and imagining that journey, read Luke 24.13-35 slowly to them.*

*Story (Luke 24.13-35)*



Who was the mysterious man on the road to Emmaus? That's what Cleopas wanted to know. Cleopas and his friend had been walking away from Jerusalem, talking about Jesus' death, when the man suddenly appeared with them. 'What are you talking about?' the man asked. Everyone in Jerusalem was talking about Jesus. Where had

this stranger been?

Cleopas said, 'We're talking about our friend, the prophet Jesus. We thought he was the Messiah, the one sent by God to save Israel, but he was killed three days ago, and now we don't know what to think.' There was something familiar about the stranger, but Cleopas couldn't put his finger on it.

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Cleopas' friend said, 'This morning some women went to Jesus' tomb and told us the body was gone. They said they saw angels, who told them he was alive. The body's definitely gone. The disciples checked. But what does it mean? Where's the body?'

Then the stranger began to speak about the Old Testament prophets. He explained how the Messiah's life and death had been predicted a long time ago. 'You are slow and foolish not to see it,' the stranger said. 'The Messiah had to suffer before entering his glory.'

They all arrived in Emmaus as evening approached. 'Come in and eat with us,' Cleopas said. The stranger accepted, and when he broke the bread, Cleopas suddenly knew who he was. It was Jesus! Back from the dead!

Jesus disappeared and Cleopas and his friend couldn't contain themselves. They rushed back to Jerusalem to tell the 11 disciples what had happened. When they got there, the disciples were talking about Jesus. 'He appeared to Simon. He has risen!' Cleopas told his story and how he had recognised Jesus when he broke bread.

### 3. Explore the Story

*Reflect with children*

- Why do you think the two friends may not have recognised Jesus?
- Are there any times in your life where you have learnt something about Jesus' story?
- How might we take time to share Jesus' story with our friends?

*Reflect with young people*

- Why do you think the people on the road may not have recognised Jesus?
- How do you think God reveals himself to people today?
- What experiences have helped you to learn more about Jesus' story?
- If you were to tell your own story, where would you begin?

### 4. Play

Charades: Share a story in a different way.

You will need: a list of daily activities such as brushing teeth, eating breakfast, walking to school.

- Play the game of charades. Ask for one volunteer and give them an everyday action to act out.
- Remind each child when it is their turn that they are only allowed to use their bodies to make actions, with no noise or speech allowed.
- Emphasise to the children that they need to exaggerate their actions in order to share the story well. Swap round, to ensure each child who wishes to has a turn.
- Ask: is it possible to share a story without using words?

## 5. Pray

*Finish by praying together:*

Lord Jesus,  
fill us with excitement for your story,  
so that when we go out,  
we want to tell our friends all about you.  
**Amen.**

## More activities for the week

*Live your faith actions*

For children:

Keep a diary this week, with just a few words each day about your own story. Share it with God, and know that it is important to him.

For young people:

Sum up each day this week with one word. At the end of the week, take time to reflect on the good and bad moments and share your story with God.

*Create a scene*

Recreate the scene of the story. **You will need:** scissors, sticky tape, glue, pens, and a selection of recyclable materials, e.g. toilet rolls, boxes, newspapers, yoghurt pots, bottles.

- Ask the children to work in small groups to create the three different scenes from today's passage: the road to Emmaus, the room where they shared bread, and the disciples' room in Jerusalem – using the recyclable materials provided. Encourage the children to take time to think of all the details they might include.
- Once they have finished, retell the story using their crafted scenes.

*Prayer acrostics*

Remember that God is interested in every part of our story. **You will need:** paper, pens.

- Give each child a piece of paper and a pen. Ask them to write their name in large letters down the left-hand side of the paper.
- Then, using each letter of their name, encourage everyone to write something they want to thank God for, or would like his help with. Invite them to include some things that are part of the story of their life.
- Then ask the children to swap their papers with someone else in the group, and spend some time quietly praying for the person whose sheet they have. Encourage everyone to take the sheets they are holding home and pray for that person through the week.