- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
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### **FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS**

- Do you believe Jesus is alive? Why?
- What did Jesus' rising from the dead prove about His sacrifice for sin?
- How does Jesus' resurrection change how we think about death?

## **Jesus' Resurrection**

Matthew 28; John 20

# STORY POINT: GOD RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD TO DEFEAT SIN AND DEATH.

On the third day after Jesus' death, Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb. She saw that the large stone at the entrance had been moved away.

Mary ran to Simon Peter and John. "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and I don't know where

they have put Him!" she said.

Peter and John ran to the tomb. John looked inside and saw the linen cloths lying there. Then Peter went into the tomb and saw the linen cloths too. John believed that Jesus was alive. Then Peter and John went back home. Mary went back to the tomb and cried. She saw two angels. They said to her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"Because they've taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put Him," she said. Then Mary turned around. Jesus stood in front of her, but she did not recognize Him. Jesus said, "Who are you looking for?"

Mary thought Jesus might be the gardener. She replied, "Sir, if you have taken Jesus away, tell me where you've put Him and I will go get Him."

Jesus said, "Mary."

Mary realized who He was and said, "Teacher!"

Jesus sent Mary to tell the other disciples that He was going back to the Father. Mary did what Jesus said, and she told the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!"

Christ Connection: Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but He didn't stay dead. God was pleased with Jesus' sacrifice and raised Jesus from the dead to reign as King over all creation. Jesus provides salvation from sin and the promise of eternal life.



**Clearing the Confusion** Unscramble the following words to discover an important word that describes Jesus. **DGEAERNR** - a person who cares for a garden SNALGE created beings whose only job is to serve and worship God DLSSIPEIC -the people Jesus called to follow Him on earth to accept something as true **EIBEVLE** YMEPT - containing nothing **What Did She Say?** Decode the message from Mary.



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## **FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS**

- What is the Bible all about?
- Why is reading the Bible important? (See Psalm 119:105.)
- Share something you've learned from the Bible that was confusing or surprising to you.

## The Emmaus Disciples

Luke 24

### STORY POINT: JESUS TAUGHT THAT ALL THE SCRIPTURES POINT TO HIM.

On the day that Jesus rose from the dead, two of Jesus' disciples were walking to a village called Emmaus. The two disciples were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked, Jesus began to walk with them, but the disciples did not recognize Him. Jesus asked the disciples, "What are you talking about?"

They told Him, "The religious leaders handed Jesus over to be sentenced to death, and they nailed Him to a cross.

"We had hoped He was the One who would set Israel free. Early this morning, some women went to the tomb and did not find Jesus' body. They saw angels, who said that Jesus is alive."

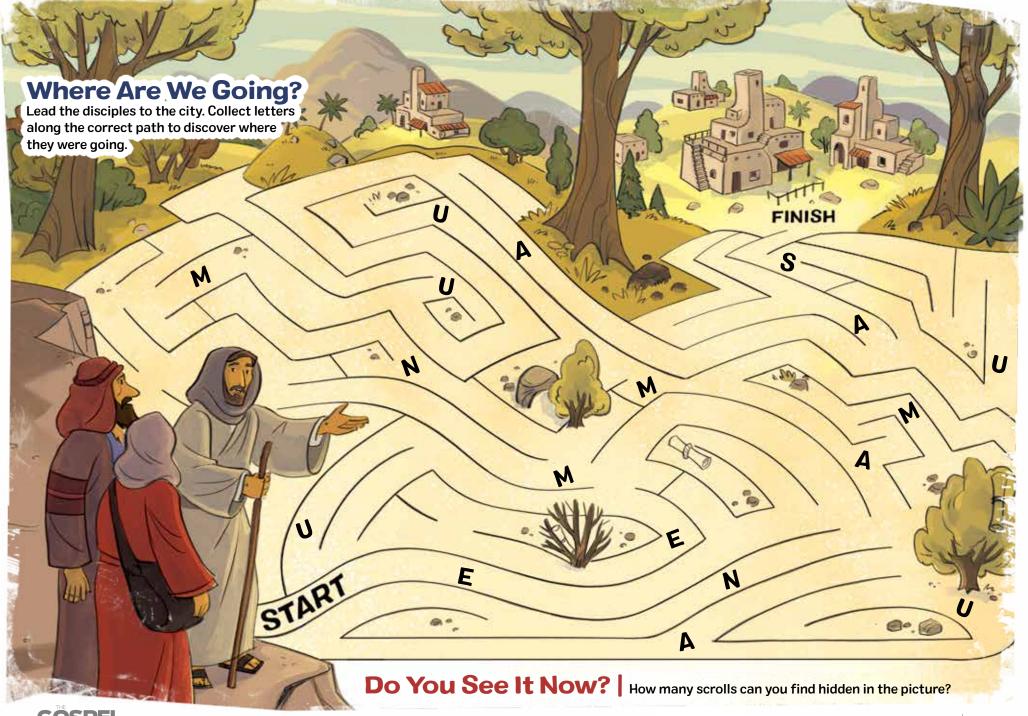
Jesus said, "Isn't this what had to happen to the Messiah?" Then, beginning with Moses and the Prophets, Jesus explained what all the Scriptures said about Him.

Jesus and the two disciples arrived at Emmaus. Jesus joined them at the dinner table. He took the bread, thanked God for it, and broke it into pieces. Then He gave the pieces to the disciples. Right away, the disciples recognized Jesus! But Jesus immediately disappeared from their sight.

The disciples immediately left Emmaus and went back to Jerusalem. They found Jesus' eleven disciples and others who gathered with them. They told them what happened. They said, "Jesus is alive!"

Christ Connection: The whole Bible is about Jesus. When Adam and Eve sinned, God began working out His plan to send Jesus to rescue people from sin. All of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—the time when Jesus would bring God's promised salvation for sinners.





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### **FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS**

- Why is it important that so many people saw Jesus alive after the resurrection?
- What is faith? (See Hebrews 11:1.)
- What do you think it would be like to see Jesus face to face?

## **Jesus Appeared to the Disciples**

Luke 24; John 20

### STORY POINT: JESUS PROVED HE IS ALIVE.

The disciples gathered together in a house. Some of Jesus' disciples had reported seeing Him alive. Was it true? As the disciples talked, Jesus appeared among them and said, "Peace to you!" The disciples were afraid! They thought they were seeing a ghost.

"It's Me!" Jesus said. Jesus showed His disciples His hands and His side. The disciples were so happy to see Jesus! The disciples gave Jesus some fish to eat. Jesus talked to them and explained the Bible to them. "The Bible is about Me," Jesus said.

Then Jesus told the disciples that they had a job to do. Jesus had died and was raised from the dead so that people could be forgiven for their sins. The disciples needed to tell other people to repent from their sins and be forgiven.

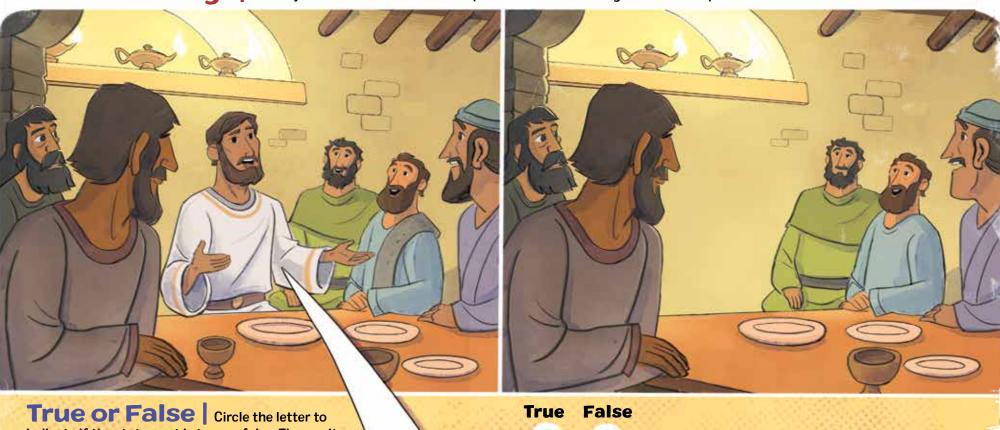
One of Jesus' disciples, Thomas, was not with the others when Jesus visited them. He did not believe that Jesus was alive. Thomas said, "I want to see and touch the holes in His hands and His side, or I will never believe!"

A week later, Thomas was with the disciples when Jesus appeared again. Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at My hands. Reach out and touch My side. Don't be an unbeliever; believe!" Thomas did believe. "My Lord and my God!" he said. Jesus said, "Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Those who believe in Me without seeing Me are blessed."

Christ Connection: For 40 days, Jesus presented Himself to more than 500 people and proved that He is alive. Jesus is still alive today. We have not seen Jesus, but if we believe in Him, we will be blessed. He sends out believers to tell others about Him and gives us power through the Holy Spirit.



# What's Missing? Identify the six items from the first picture that are missing in the second picture.



**True or False** Circle the letter to indicate if the statement is true or false. Then write out the circled letters to discover a command Jesus gave to Thomas.

Thomas,

- B A Jesus said the Bible is all about Him.
- E R The disciples thought Jesus was a ghost.
- S John was missing when Jesus appeared.
- The disciples were afraid of the Greeks.
- Jesus ate fish.
- Jesus told the disciples to teach about Him.
  - The disciples gathered on the last day of the week.



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### **FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS**

- Where is Jesus today?
- What promises did Jesus make to His disciples?
- What has Jesus commanded us to do while we wait for His return?

## **Jesus Returned to Heaven**

Matthew 28: Acts 1

### STORY POINT: JESUS GAVE HIS DISCIPLES THE GREAT COMMISSION.

After Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, He spent time with His disciples over 40 days. Jesus told them even more about God's kingdom. Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." Jesus gave the disciples—and everyone who follows Him—a job to do. He said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel. Make

disciples of people from every nation."

Jesus also said, "Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to

obey everything I have commanded you." Then Jesus said, "Remember this: I am always with you, until

the very end of the age."

Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you. You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After Jesus said these things, He went up into heaven. All of a sudden, two angels appeared. These angels asked, "This Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come again. He will return in the same way that you have seen Him going into heaven."



Christ Connection: Jesus left earth and returned to heaven, but He did not leave us alone. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with us and help us do God's work—to teach people everywhere about Jesus so they will trust in Him as their Lord and Savior. One day, Jesus will return to make all things new and to rule as Lord over all.

## **Ascension Search**

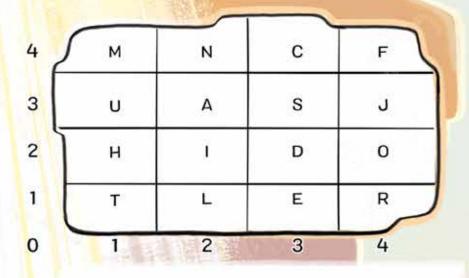
Find and circle the key words in the word search.

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Ε	L	М	U	S	Н	R	C	Н	Z	
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Α	N	Α	Т	1	0	Ν	S	E	Н	
Y	Q	G	P	Q	F	G	K	J	R	

**ANGELS** AUTHORITY BAPTIZE DISCIPLES EARTH FORTY DAYS HEAVEN **JERUSALEM JESUS** JUDEA NATIONS POWER REMEMBER SAMARIA WITNESSES

## **What's Next?**

Use the coordinates to decode the names of the places Jesus spoke about. Tip: (2,3) = A



(4,3) (3,1) (4,1) (1,3) (3,3) (2,3) (2,1) (3,1) (1,4)

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