

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



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### EYES WIDE OPEN

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#### Luke 24:13-35 The road to Emmaus

Each child will need:

- A slice of bread, small figures (eg Lego) and building blocks (optional)

You will need:

- Spot the difference images (optional) – see Game 1, Start It section
- A map of the Holy Land in Jesus' time
- Flat/pitta bread
- Small figures
- Building blocks
- Guests to share testimony of encountering God – see Action It section

### Start It

Play a game of looking for clues.

#### Game 1

Share some 'spot the difference' images. Children can call out the differences they spot.

#### Game 2

Play a game of Sherlock where one child leaves the screen and everyone changes one thing about his or her appearance. The child comes back and has to guess what everyone has changed.

Were some members of your group more observant or alert than others?

**Ask:** How do we recognise the people we know? If we see a friend at school, how do we know it's them?

- **Say:** Our different senses help us. May we know it is them because of how they look, or how they sound when they speak, or by their actions.
- **Say:** When Jesus came back to life, he walked with two of his friends. Today we are going to find out what happened in these two friends' lives. We are also going to think about how open we are to recognising our encounters with God.

### Sing It

This fun song is a reminder for us to open our eyes and see all of the wonderful things that God has done for us!

'Open my eyes' – Elementary worship song by NewSpring Worship  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAh0avXdgJ0>

## Tell It

### Luke 24:13-35

Share a map of the Holy Land at the time of Jesus and show where the city of Jerusalem is. The Bible tells us that the town of Emmaus was about seven miles from Jerusalem, so show where it could have been. The exact location is not known (there are several candidates), so indicate roughly to the west of Jerusalem.

You could invite the children to join in your retelling of the story using building blocks, small figures and bread.

Use some of the building blocks to represent houses in Jerusalem, then build a wall around them. Away from Jerusalem, build a small town and call it Emmaus.

Place some small figures in Jerusalem to represent the disciples who were there.

As you read the Bible passage, use other figures to represent Jesus and the two friends.

#### Ask:

- What other stories do you know where Jesus and his friends ate together?
- Or shared bread together?
- How did the disciples know it was Jesus that was with them?
- What other stories do you know where the disciples knew Jesus was with them?
- What other stories do you know from the Bible where people knew God was with them?
- Are there times where you have encountered God?

## Action It

Invite some members of your congregation to come and share testimonies of times they have encountered God.

Ask the children to think about how people each felt God's presence. Did everyone have the same experience, or were his or her experiences unique?

Ask the children if any of them would like to share their encounters of God.

## Pray It

From *Prayer Activations and Encounters* (River Kids 2nd Edition)

#### ● Say:

Close your eyes.

I want you to imagine you are walking on a path.

This path represents how you feel life is going right now.

What does your path look like?

Is it windy or straight?

What are your surroundings?

Are you in an open space or going through something?

Is it bright or dark?

Now I want you to imagine Jesus.

He is definitely there.

Can you see him?

Where is he?

Is he walking with you?

Are you walking towards him?

What is happening?

*(Pause)*

No matter what is happening in life, Jesus is always with us.

Sometimes we do not feel like it, but he is.

Open your eyes.

## Explore It

Remember to send home the Explore It (For Me) and Explore It (Together) ideas for children and families.