



# DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

### The Road to Emmaus



**Jesus walks with me, loves me, and fills my heart with joy.**

## Overview

Leaders of Children's Liturgy of the Word often want to 'teach' children about Mass. This is the weekend the liturgy teaches us and helps us unfold the beauty of the Mass for children.

The readings are centred on the encounter with the Risen Christ in the Gospel story of Jesus meeting the Two Disciples on the Road to Emmaus. At its heart, this Sunday reveals that Jesus, the Son of God, is truly alive and continues to walk with His people, even when He is not immediately recognized. The disciples' journey from sadness to joy reflects the inner journey of faith: moving from confusion and disappointment toward understanding, hope, and mission. Be sensitive to children, as this will develop in their lives.

The Gospel highlights two essential ways Christ is present to the Church: in the Scriptures and in the breaking of the bread. Jesus first opens the Word to the disciples, helping them understand God's plan, and then reveals Himself in a Eucharistic gesture. For leaders, this is a key catechetical moment to help children see the unity of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Christ is not distant—He speaks, teaches, and feeds His people today.

The question "were not our hearts burning within us?" points to an interior awareness of God's presence in all of us. Children can begin to recognize that God speaks to their hearts through peace, joy, and insight. This invites a spirituality of attentiveness and relationship—encouraging children to listen, to invite Jesus to "stay with them," and to grow in trust.

Finally, the disciples' immediate response—to return and share the good news—reveals the missionary dimension of Christian life. Encounter leads to witness. Children, too, are called to share joy, kindness, and faith in simple ways. For leaders, the goal is not only understanding but helping children recognize that they are already companions of the Risen Christ, sent to share His joy with the world.

## Key Messages for Children

1. Jesus is with you—even when you don't know it. Sometimes we don't recognize Him, but He is always walking with us.
2. We meet Jesus at Mass. The disciples knew Jesus when He broke the bread—just like we meet Him in the Eucharist.
3. Jesus fills our hearts with joy. When we are close to Him, our hearts feel warm and happy.
4. We can be brave and share our faith. Like Peter, we can tell others about Jesus with courage.

## Key Messages for Leaders

- † Jesus is already present before we recognize Him. Ministry begins with awareness: Christ is active in the children before we speak.
- † Formation is a journey, not a moment. Like the disciples, children come to understanding gradually.
- † Word and Eucharist are inseparable. Christ is revealed in both Scripture and the breaking of the bread.
- † Interior experience matters. Faith is not only taught—it is felt, encountered, and received.

## Leader's Personal Reflection Questions

- When have I experienced Jesus "walking with me" without realizing it?
- Do I focus more on explaining... or on helping children encounter Jesus?
- What one message do I want children to remember this week?

## Leader Takeaway

My role is not just to teach about Jesus, but to help children recognize that He is already with them, speaking to their hearts, and sending them with joy.

## Background

**Acts 2:14, 22–28** Peter proclaims that the risen Jesus is God's fulfillment of Israel's story: Jesus was "attested" by God through mighty works, was crucified, and yet death could not hold him. Peter argues from David's words that God would not abandon the Messiah to the realm of the dead (Hades) or allow corruption—pointing to Jesus' resurrection.

**Psalms 16** is a prayer of trust: the speaker seeks refuge in God, declares God as the supreme good, and confidently anticipates protection and "ways of life." It culminates in joy and gladness in God's presence—language the early Church reads as finding its fullness in Christ's victory over death.

**1 Peter 1:17–21** The letter urges believers to live with reverent fear and hope because they have been "ransomed" from empty, inherited ways—not by money, but by the precious blood of Christ. Christ's resurrection undergirds faith: God raised him and gave him glory, so that belief and hope rest on God.

**Luke 24:13–35** On the Road to Emmaus, the Risen Christ teaches a deeply spiritual pattern: doubt is not defeated by argument alone, but by being led—first through the Scriptures, and then through eucharistic-like "bread" recognition. The disciples begin with sorrow and confusion; Jesus then "interpreted to them the things about himself," so that their hearts begin to burn with understanding. Then, when "he took bread, blessed and broke it... and their eyes were opened, and they recognized him."

Christian faith is not merely a conclusion drawn from facts; it is an encounter—God opens the mind and the heart so that Christ becomes known.

## The Liturgy

### Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

**Priest:** (in these or similar words)

**Children, today you will hear that Jesus walks with us, even when we don't recognize Him. As you go now to hear God's Word, listen to His voice and feel His love in your hearts. Go in peace.**

Once most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the celebration site. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the CLoW room, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

### Welcome.

The leaders assist the children in sitting and preparing. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may offer the following prayer, in these or similar words.

**Let's quiet our hearts and make the Sign of the Cross.**

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Jesus, I am here with you. Help me to listen and know that You are here.**

**Thank you for loving me.**

**Amen.**

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, the Gospel is required.

## READINGS

### FIRST READING

Acts 2.14, 22b-28

A reading from the book of Acts.

When the day of Pentecost had come, Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know – this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'"

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 16.1-2+5, 7-8, 9-10, 11

R. Lord, you will show me the path of life.

or: Alleluia

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord.

I have no good apart from you."

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. R.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel;

in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the Lord always before me;

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. R.

Therefore, my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;

my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol,

or let your faithful one see the Pit. R.

You show me the path of life.

In your presence, there is fullness of joy;

In your right hand are pleasures forevermore. R.

## SECOND READING

1 Peter 1.17-21

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Beloved:

If you invoke as Father the one who judges each person impartially according to each one's deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

Christ was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

On the first day of the week, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about eleven kilometres from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And Jesus said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" Jesus asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that Jesus was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus." Then Jesus said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So Jesus went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; and he vanished from their sight. The two disciples said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. These were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then the two disciples told what had happened on the road, and how the Lord had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The gospel of the Lord.

## REIMAGINED READINGS FOR CHILDREN

The reimagined readings below are intended for use after the children have heard the original reading. The intent is to allow the children to listen to the original reading and help them better understand it (not replace it).

Read at a minimum, the Gospel, which has the highest priority, and then ask the children to sit down. You can then read the reimagined reading. Leaders may not have time to read all of the reading. If time permits, after the Gospel, proclaim the Psalm, and then the first reading, if time permits.

Reimagined readers must always remain faithful to the original Scripture's intent, making it age-appropriate for children to understand.

### FIRST READING

Acts 2.14, 22b-28

Peter stood up with his friends and spoke loudly so everyone could hear: "Listen carefully, everyone! God sent Jesus to us and showed us that Jesus was the Son of God by doing amazing things through him—things that made people stop and wonder.

But even though Jesus was the Son of God, he was treated badly and put to death. This was very sad—but it was not the end of the story. God did something incredible—God brought Jesus back to life! Jesus rose from the dead.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 16

R. God is with me, I am not afraid!

God, stay close to me,  
you keep me safe.  
You are good to me,  
every day. R.

You never leave me,  
you show me the way.  
You make my heart happy,  
every day. R.

**SECOND READING**

**1 Peter 1.17-21**

God loves everyone. So, love God.

Remember this: money or possessions do not save people. Jesus, the Son of God, saves us. That is why God raised Jesus from the dead.

So trust God and put your hope in Jesus.

Two friends were walking down a dusty road on the first day of the week on their way to a city called Emmaus. They were feeling very sad. They had hoped that Jesus, the Son of God, would change everything... but now He had died. They walked slowly, kicking little stones along the path.

Suddenly, a man came and started walking beside them. "Hi!" he said. "What are you talking about?" They looked surprised. "Are you the only person who doesn't know what just happened?!"

They explained everything—about Jesus, His miracles, how they thought He would save everyone and that he was crucified. They told him that some of the women had gone to his tomb, and that it was empty. The man listened carefully. Then he smiled kindly and began to explain something amazing. He told them how everything that happened to Jesus was in the Scriptures and was part of God's plan all along. As he spoke, something strange happened...Their hearts began to feel warm and excited!

They kept walking and talking until they reached their village. The man acted like he was going to keep going. But they said, "Stay with us! It's getting late." So the man went inside with them in their home. They sat down at the table. Then the man took some bread...He blessed it...He broke it...And gave it to them. Suddenly — their eyes opened! It was Jesus!!!

And just like that... He disappeared! But they jumped up, full of joy! "Didn't our hearts feel amazing when He was talking to us?!" they said.

Even though it was late, they ran all the way back to tell their friends: "Jesus is alive! We saw Him!" Jesus is always close to us—even when we don't realize it.

## Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Remember the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions. An excellent place to begin is the question:

**What did you hear?** *Allow children to respond.*

Two friends were walking down a dusty road on the first day of the week on their way to a city called Emmaus. They were feeling very sad.

**Why do you think that they were sad and confused?** *Jesus had died.*

They had hoped that Jesus, the Son of God, would change everything... but now He had died. They walked slowly, kicking little stones along the path, talking about everything that had happened, when suddenly... a stranger started walking with them. But here's the surprising part: it was Jesus—and they didn't recognize Him!

**Have you ever walked somewhere with a friend or family member and talked about your day?**

**Who do you like to walk and talk with?**

They explained everything—about Jesus, His miracles, how they thought He would save everyone and that he was crucified. They told him that some of the women had gone to his tomb, and that it was empty. The man listened carefully. Then he smiled kindly and began to explain something amazing. He told them how everything that happened to Jesus was in the Scriptures and was part of God's plan all along. As he spoke, something strange happened... Their hearts began to feel warm and excited!

**Have you ever felt really happy or warm inside when someone helped you understand something?**

They kept walking and talking until they reached their village. The man acted like he was going to keep going. But they said, "Stay with us! It's getting late." So the man went inside with them to their home. They sat down at the table. Then the man took some bread... He blessed it... He broke it... And gave it to them. Suddenly — their eyes opened! It was Jesus!!!

**Where have you seen or heard about Jesus breaking bread before?** *Mass*

And just like that... He disappeared! They jumped up, full of joy! "Didn't our hearts feel amazing when He was talking to us?!" they said. Right away, even though it was late, they ran back to tell the others: "We have seen the Lord!" They were no longer sad—they were full of joy!

**What would you do if you suddenly realized Jesus was with you?**

**Who would you tell? What does this mean for us?**

Sometimes we don't see Jesus right away, either. But He is with us:

- when we listen to God's Word
- when we help others
- especially at Mass, in the breaking of the bread

**When do you feel closest to Jesus?**

Even when you feel sad, confused, or alone... Jesus is walking right beside you.

You might not always see Him—but He is there, helping your heart grow warm with love.

Just like the two people walking down the road at the beginning of the Gospel, sometimes we don't realize that Jesus, the Son of God, is walking right beside us—especially when we feel sad, confused, or unsure. But He is always there, gently speaking to our hearts, helping us understand, and filling us with peace. We can find Him when we pray, and especially when we gather at Mass and share in the breaking of the bread.

So this week, remember: you are never alone—Jesus is with you, and your heart can be full of joy when you look for Him!

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess their faith. Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess their faith. Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

## The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who gave his life for us?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: I believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

## Prayer of the Faithful

Leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. The leader may need to repeat and paraphrase the petition, concluding it with the cue for the response: 'We pray.' All respond to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Sample intercessions are below.

The intercessions are said. The Leader introduces them, and an assistant announces them.

The leader says:

**Jesus walks with us and listens to our hearts. Let us bring our prayers to Him with trust. Our response is: R: Lord, hear our prayer.**

Assistant:

**For the Church, that the Church may help people everywhere recognize Jesus in the Word and in the breaking of the bread. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For leaders of the world, that they may walk in peace and guide others with kindness and wisdom. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For people who feel sad or alone, that they may know Jesus is walking beside them and filling their hearts with hope. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**For children and families, that we may recognize Jesus in our daily lives—at home, at school, and especially at Mass. We pray to the Lord. R:**

Assistant:

**In the quiet of our hearts, we offer our own prayers... [pause]. We pray: Come, Lord Jesus. R:**

The Leader says:

**Loving Jesus, you walk with us always. Hear these prayers and help us to recognize you in our lives. We ask this in your name.**

## Return to the church

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and reflect on what they have heard and what they are now doing. Be mindful of children who may have difficulty finding their families.



## DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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Readings: Lectionary Sundays and Solemnities,  
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Bulletin: [TheKidsBulletin.com](http://TheKidsBulletin.com) – Goodwill donation suggested  
John 20:19-31 handout provided by [thewordthisweek.net](http://thewordthisweek.net)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_.

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

# LUKE 24:13-35

1. What day was it when the two disciples were walking?



- A. The Sabbath.
- B. The first day of the week.
- C. The third day of the week.



5. What did the women find when they went to the tomb?



- A. A closed tomb.
- B. Jesus's body.
- C. An empty tomb.



2. Where were the disciples going?



- A. Galilee.
- B. Emmaus.
- C. Nazareth.

6. What did the stranger explain to the disciples as they walked?



- A. The Roman laws.
- B. The Scriptures and prophecies about the Messiah.
- C. Farming tips.



3. Who joined them on the road but they did not recognize Him?

- A. John the Baptist.
- B. Jesus.
- C. An angel.



7. Where did the stranger stay with the disciples in the evening?

- A. Their home.
- B. A synagogue.
- C. An inn.



4. What were the disciples talking about that made them sad?



- A. Lost sheep.
- B. The crucifixion.
- C. A tax collector.



8. When did the disciples finally recognize Jesus?



- A. When He told a parable.
- B. When He performed a miracle.
- C. When He broke the bread.

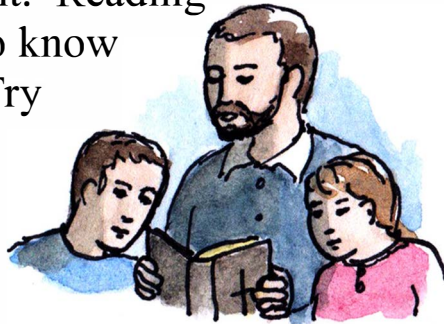
# Reading the Scriptures

In today's Gospel reading two disciples were walking together and thinking sadly about how Jesus had just been tortured and killed. Then Jesus started walking with them- but they didn't recognize Him. He explained to them what the Scriptures had said about Him suffering and dying. He helped them to understand what God's plan had been.



Every time we go to Mass we hear about Jesus in the Gospel reading. But we don't need to wait until Mass to learn about Jesus. You can read the Bible every day. God wants us to know Him better so we can love Him more. And the more we love Him the happier we will be.

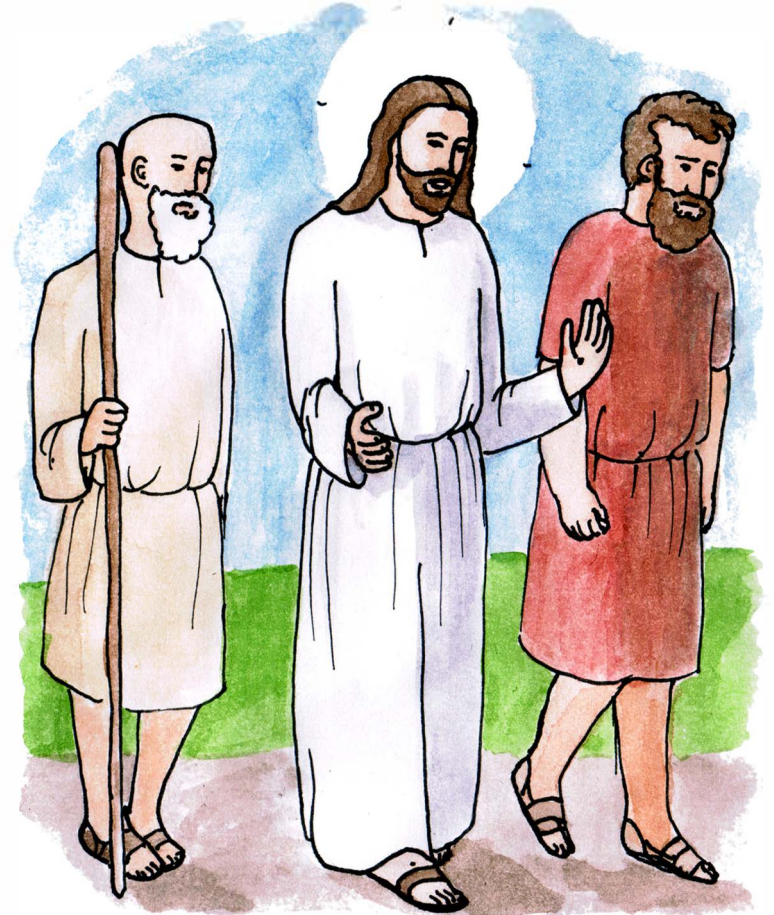
Do you have a children's Bible? Maybe your Mom or Dad can read to you from the big Bible a little every morning or night. Reading saint stories also helps us to know God through His friends. Try to read or listen to some of the Bible or the life of a saint every day!



Answer to puzzle on front: In the Breaking of the Bread  
 Answer to picture puzzle inside:  
 Top- 4, 1 middle- 2, 6 bottom- 3, 5

# The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Easter



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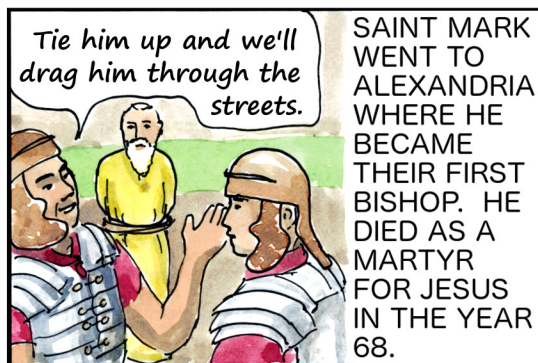
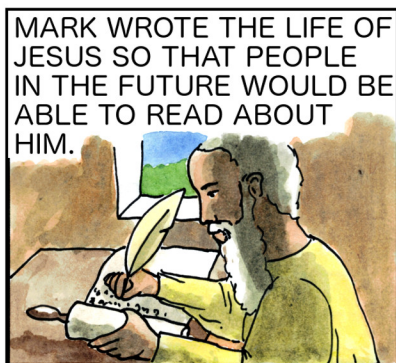
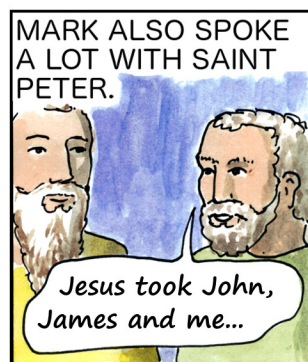
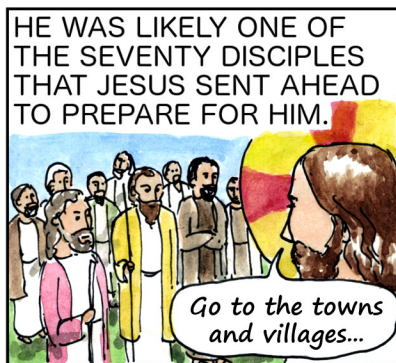
The disciples on the road to Emmaus didn't recognize Jesus at first. How did they recognize Him eventually?

Use the code to find out!

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 ⊖ x | - □ ○ ⊙ □ 7 9

# Saint Mark

April 25



SAINT MARK KNEW THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS, SO HE WROTE HIS STORY, OR GOSPEL. DO YOU EVER READ BIBLE STORIES? DO YOU PAY ATTENTION TO THE GOSPEL READING AT CHURCH? TRY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT JESUS SO YOU CAN BE MORE LIKE HIM!

# Picture Puzzle: The Road to Emmaus

How well do you know the story of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus? Figure out the order of the pictures and put the appropriate numbers in the corners.

