

A Surprise Along the Road

Were our hearts not burning within us? (Lk 24:32)



TARGET AUDIENCE

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Overview

This Object is based on the scriptural account of Jesus' encounter with two disciples on their way to Emmaus; the longest single post-resurrection narrative in the gospels. The nature of the Object is storytelling as the Object is directed at the early years. It provides an introduction to the Eucharistic themes of Jesus' Passion and Resurrection.

The multimedia element is an animation with audio of Jesus' encounter with the disciples while on the way to Emmaus. The text of the audio is taken from the CEV Bible.

Teacher Background

Teachers are encouraged to review the 'Exploring the Mass' section of the DVD Rom Become One Body One Spirit in Christ to deepen their understanding of the scriptural, historical and theological foundations of the Eucharist.

In particular, the following aspects of Become One Body One Spirit in Christ provide entry points and context for this Learning Object:

- Within the pathway 'Scriptural Foundations' click on the tab 'Emmaus'. It would be pertinent to read the other scripture passages in this pathway under the tabs 'The Last Supper', 'Passion & Death', 'Resurrection', and 'Ascension'.

Where appropriate, use this material with the students.

Supporting Content

This text supports the focus of the multimedia element.

Two of Jesus' followers were going to the village of Emmaus, which was close to Jerusalem. As they were walking they were talking and thinking about what had happened to Jesus as they had just found out about his empty tomb.

Jesus came near and started walking along beside them. But they did not

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Supporting Content

recognise him. Jesus asked them, 'What were you talking about as you walked along?' The two of them stood there looking very sad. Then the one named Cleopas asked Jesus, 'Are you the only person from Jerusalem who doesn't know what has happening there these last few days?' 'What do you mean?' Jesus asked.

They answered: 'Those things that happened to Jesus from Nazareth. By what he did and said he showed that he was a great man, who was loved by God and all the people. Then our leaders had him arrested and sentenced to die on a cross. It has been three days since all this happened. Some women in our group surprised us. They had gone to the tomb early in the morning, but did not find the body of Jesus. They came back, saying that they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is alive. Some men from our group went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said. But they didn't see Jesus either.'

Then Jesus asked the two followers, 'Why can't you understand?' Jesus then explained everything that was written about himself in the scriptures. When they came near the village where they were going, Jesus seemed to be going to keep walking.

They begged him, 'Stay with us! It's already late, and the sun is going down.' So Jesus went into the house to stay with them.

After Jesus sat down to eat, he took some bread. He blessed it and broke it. Then he gave it to them. At once they knew who he was, but he disappeared. They said to each other, 'When he talked with us along the road, didn't it warm our hearts?' So they got right up and returned to Jerusalem. The two followers found the eleven apostles and some of Jesus' friends gathered together. They found out from them that the Lord was really alive and had appeared to Peter. Then the followers from Emmaus told what had happened on the road and how they knew he was Jesus when he broke the bread.

For Reflection and Discussion: Ideas for Use

- 1 **A Surprise Along the Road is one of two Objects on the Emmaus story, the other one being Road to Emmaus. Screen for the students the multimedia elements of these two Objects. Invite the students to name three insights they have gained into the foundations of the Eucharist as a result of viewing both Objects.**

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For Reflection and Discussion: Ideas for Use

2 Invite the students to complete this activity and then provide them with the answers.

Fill in the blanks for Luke 24:13-35:

1. ¹³Two of Jesus' disciples were going to the village of **Emmaus**, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem.
2. ¹⁵**Jesus** came near and started walking along beside them.
3. ¹⁸The one named **Cleopas** asked Jesus, 'Are you the only person from Jerusalem who didn't know what was happening there these last few days?'
4. ²⁰Then the chief priests and our leaders had him arrested and sentenced to die on a **cross**.
5. ²²Some women in our group surprised us. They had gone to the **tomb** early in the morning, ²³but did not find the **body** of Jesus. They came back, saying that they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is **alive**.
6. ²⁵Then Jesus asked the two disciples, 'Why can't you understand? How can you be so slow to believe all that the **prophets** said? ²⁶Didn't you know that the **Messiah** would have to **suffer** before he was given his glory?'
7. ³⁰After Jesus sat down to eat, he took some **bread**. He blessed it and broke it.

3 Organise the students into groups and then arrange a time for them to perform their version of the Emmaus story for the class.

Form groups of three or more people. Rehearse your own version of the Emmaus story, and then act it out for the whole class.

Teacher Professional Development Resources

Magliano, Tony, ['Road to Emmaus story provides priceless lessons'](#), Catholic Courier December 2009

[Road to Emmaus – Who was with Jesus](#)