

LESSON 11

JESUS APPEARS

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Jesus' Appearances

Paul lists several resurrection appearances of Jesus to various "men" but doesn't describe them. In Matthew, Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene and another Mary at His empty tomb. Later, the eleven disciples go to a mountain in Galilee to meet Jesus, who appears to them and commissions them to baptize in the name of Jesus, and to make disciples of all people (the Great Commission).

In Luke, Jesus appears to the disciples and eats with them, demonstrating that He is flesh and bones, not a ghost. He tells them to wait in Jerusalem for the start of their mission to the world, and then He ascends into heaven. In Acts, Jesus appears to His disciples after His death and stays with them for 40 days before ascending to heaven. In John, Mary alone finds Jesus at the empty tomb, and He tells her not to touch Him because He has not yet ascended to the Father. Later, He appears to the disciples. He moves through a closed door and has "doubting Thomas" touch His wounds to demonstrate that He is flesh and bones. In a later appearance, Jesus assigns Peter the role of tending to Jesus' sheep, that is, leading Jesus' followers.

The New Testament records twelve appearances of the risen Lord:

1. To Mary Magdalene on Sunday morning (Mk 16:9-11; Jn 20:11-18)
2. To other women who had visited the tomb on Sunday morning (Mt 28:8-10; Mk 16:1-8; Lk 24:1-12; Jn 20:1-9)
3. To two disciples on their way to Emmaus on the day of His resurrection (Lk 24:13-32)
4. To Peter later on that same Sunday (Lk 24:34)
5. To the ten disciples (excluding Thomas) in the Upper Room in Jerusalem (Mk 16:14; Lk 24:36-43; Jn 20:19-25)
6. To the eleven disciples (including Thomas) in the Upper Room in Jerusalem (Jn 20:26-31)
7. To the seven disciples fishing in Galilee; Jesus also ate with them (Jn 21:1-23)
8. To the eleven disciples on the mountain in Galilee (Mt 28:16-20; Mk 16:15-18)
9. To a crowd of five hundred (1 Cor 15:6)
10. To James, Jesus' brother (1 Cor 15:7)
11. To the eleven disciples at Jesus' ascension forty days after His resurrection (Lk 24:44-49)
12. To Paul on the road to Damascus, a few years after the ascension (Acts 22:6-16)

BIBLE TEXT

Luke 24:13-35
John 20:19-28

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus strengthened the faith of His followers by appearing to them after His resurrection.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

To grow closer to Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

"Draw near to God
and He will draw near to you."

(James 4:8a)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus, we pray. Thank You, Lord, for protecting us through another week. We have learned so much about Your love and sufferings for us. Please help us to come near to You so that we may be strong. We want to remain Your faithful followers until You come again. Hallelujah! Amen.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

Jesus often shows up in unexpected places and at surprising times. Or maybe it seems that way because people often only look for God in spectacular miracles. When God told Elijah to wait for Him outside the cave, Elijah looked for Him in the wind, the earthquake, and the fire. He did not think that God would be in the still, small voice. Just like Elijah, the two disciples who were on their way to Emmaus didn't recognize Jesus because they weren't expecting Him to appear just like that on the road.

These experiences are very applicable to your students. Where do they look for God every day of their lives? Do they only "see" Him in miracles and in Bible stories? Is He

only with them during their prayers? It is important for them to understand that Jesus is with them at all times. He is protecting them while they go to school, play outside, or worship Him in church. God is everywhere. To help your students draw closer to God, discuss ways that He is a part of their lives. Brainstorm the many things your students can thank God for. Try to include overlooked items, such as getting home safely each day or having food to eat. When they realize that God is in every part of their daily living, they will know that miracles are happening to them every day. God isn't only in powerful and earth-shattering events; God is also with them.

VOCABULARY

foolish: silly, unwise

desert: to abandon, to leave

draw: to come closer

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the resurrection of Jesus. Does anyone remember what "resurrect" means? [Wait for students to respond.] That's right! It means to come alive after dying. Early in the morning on Jesus' third day of death, Mary Magdalene and her friends went to Jesus' tomb. They wanted to show their love by putting spices on His body. But what did they find out after they arrived at the tomb? The tomb was empty! They all couldn't believe their eyes. An angel told them that Jesus had risen, so they quickly went to tell Peter and John what they had seen. Peter and John didn't believe at first, so they went to see for themselves. When Peter and John arrived, they saw that Jesus' body was gone. Then they believed that Jesus had resurrected.

BIBLE STORY

The Road to Emmaus

After the angels told the women about Jesus' resurrection, they went back to town to tell others. When people heard this amazing news, they were shocked and happy at the same time. Many people wondered where Jesus was now.

There happened to be two friends who were followers of Jesus walking to a town called Emmaus. They had just come from the city of Jerusalem. As they walked, they talked about this turn of events. They too wondered where Jesus could be if He was no longer in the tomb. They were still sad because they didn't really know what had happened to Jesus. Suddenly, a Man appeared and began walking with them. He looked at their sad faces and asked them, "Why are you two so sad?" One of the friends, called Cleopas, said, "You must be the only person who doesn't know what has happened in the last few days."

"What happened?" asked the Man.

"Jesus was crucified because people didn't believe He

was the Son of God. Everyone was very sad because He died on the cross," Cleopas answered. "Today is the third day since His death and something amazing has happened. Some women said angels told them this morning that Jesus is alive! When people went to look for His body, they couldn't find Him in the tomb."

The Man shook His head slightly and said, "You are foolish people. Don't you know that Jesus had to suffer death and rise again in order to complete God's plan?"

After saying this, the Man talked about God's word and explained everything concerning the life and sufferings of Jesus. He talked all the way to Emmaus. When the three people finally arrived in the town, it was already very late. The Man was about to continue walking on. Even though the friends didn't know this Man, they enjoyed His company. Since it was getting late, they decided to invite Him to stay for the night with them. The Man agreed and followed them home.

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

After resting for a while, they sat together at a table to eat dinner. The Man took the bread and prayed to God in heaven. Then He broke and gave it to the two friends. Suddenly, the friends recognized this person. It was Jesus Himself! Then as quickly as He had come, Jesus disappeared. The two friends felt really foolish. How could they not have known it was Jesus all along? He had said so many things about the kingdom of God on their way to Emmaus. Now that they had seen Jesus for themselves, they wanted to tell the disciples that what the women had said was true! When they arrived at the disciples' house, they told them everything that had happened. They said, "Jesus is really alive! He walked with us!" The disciples were amazed and happy. They wondered when they would be able to see Jesus, too.

Thomas' Unbelief

Now one of the disciples was not there when Jesus appeared. Do you know which disciple this was? It was Thomas. When Thomas came back, the other disciples told him that Jesus had just been with them. But Thomas didn't believe them. Why do you think Thomas didn't believe them? [Let students give some possible reasons.] Let's see what Thomas said. "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." The rest of the disciples tried to convince him that they really had been with Jesus, but Thomas wouldn't change his mind. About one week later, all of the disciples were in the house again. This time, Thomas was together with them.

Suddenly, Jesus appeared among them. "Peace to you!" said Jesus. Then He turned to Thomas and said, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." Then Thomas cried out, "My Lord and my God!" This meant that Thomas finally believed that the man standing before him was his Lord Jesus. Jesus said, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Final Thoughts

Boys and girls, how wonderful it was for Jesus to appear to His followers! Why do you think He did that? [Encourage students to speculate.] Jesus probably wanted to comfort them, because He knew how sad His followers were after His death. Jesus also wanted them to know that He had power over death. Now that He is alive, we can count on Him to go to heaven with Him one day. Moreover, Jesus wanted to strengthen their faith. Even though it seemed that Jesus was no longer with His followers physically, He was actually with them in spirit every minute of every day, wherever they were. As our memory verse today encourages us, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8). Jesus wants us to come closer to Him, and when we do, He will abide with us every second of our life!

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **Where were Jesus' two followers going when Jesus appeared to them?** The town of Emmaus.
2. **What was their reaction when Jesus joined them?** They didn't recognize Jesus at first, and when they finally did, Jesus quickly disappeared.
3. **What did these two followers do after Jesus disappeared?** They were amazed and ran back to Jerusalem to tell everyone about this exciting news.
4. **Why did Jesus appear to His followers?** Jesus wanted to comfort them, to show them that He has power over death, and to strengthen their faith.
5. **Jesus showed His disciples the nail marks on His _____ (hands) and _____ (feet).**
6. **Jesus said, "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have _____ (believed)."**
7. **Jesus told His disciples to wait for the _____ (Holy Spirit) to come so that it**

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." (James 4:8a)

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. We must strive to increase our understanding of God's word

After Jesus died on the cross, His disciples were filled with sadness. They did not understand why Jesus had to die. Even when they found out that His tomb was empty, they did not understand that Jesus had come back to life. On the road to Emmaus, the two disciples were sad and confused about everything that had happened in the past three days. From this, we can see that Jesus' disciples were no more special than any other followers of God, including us. There were times when they felt discouraged and hopeless, too! But at this time, Jesus appeared and explained everything to them. Using words from the Bible, Jesus explained to them, "Don't you see that everything had been planned? The Son of God must suffer these things in order to enter into His glory!" Indeed, all the answers were in the Scripture! The disciples were no longer confused.

Today, when we have questions, or are confused and without hope, we can also go to the Scripture and find help. If the disciples understood the words in the Bible at that time, they would have recognized Jesus as soon as they saw Him. But instead, they were "blinded" by their own confusion and doubt. If we take the time to read the Bible and study it, we will find that the word of God is alive. We will find meaning in God's word, and it will fill our hearts. At that time, you will realize that God is so close to us. His presence surrounds us, and His Spirit lives

within our hearts. Many pastors say that they are still learning and experiencing God each time they read the Bible, even though they've studied it their entire lives. Why? Because the word of God is living. It can relate to the people in the past, as well as to us today. It gives us constant hope. It is meaningful to us. The wisdom of God is limitless. It gives answers to everything we encounter in life. It will always be useful for us. If we want to draw closer to God, we must spend time in the word. Let me share a testimony with you from one of our church members.

Many years ago, Helen's mom suffered from a serious illness. Since Helen had to work during the week, she hired a helper to take care of her mom. At that time, Helen's mom spent a lot of time praying and reading the Bible. She also shared many things that she learned from the Bible with her helper who was always with her at that time. Gradually, this helper began to learn about God. She also witnessed the comfort and care that God had given Helen's family during this difficult time for them. She was very curious about who God is. One day, she said to Helen and her mom, "I really want to know more about God. Can you tell me more about who He is and what He does?" That day, Helen gave this helper a Bible and said to her, "In order to know God, you

have to first understand who Jesus is. You can read about Him in the gospel books: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.” That night, this helper immediately started reading the Bible. She read a few chapters every night before she went to bed. One day, as she was reading about Jesus’ crucifixion, something miraculous happened! While her eyes were still looking at the Bible, she witnessed Jesus on the cross in front of her in a vision! She was instantly moved to tears, not only because she saw how cruelly Jesus was being put to death but also because she felt deeply and understood for the first time that Jesus suffered for her sins. It was at that moment when everything she read from the Bible became alive for her. After that vision, this

helper continued to study the Bible, and she also began coming to church. Few months later, she was baptized into the True Jesus Church. Thank God!

Experiencing God requires us to study and understand the Bible. Not everyone will see visions like this helper did, but God will show us what He wants us to understand in one way or another. The bottom line is that we have to open our hearts and be willing to receive the word of God. If we want to be like Jesus’ disciples who later became very important workers for the Lord, we must spend time in the word. Jesus is very near... Are you ready to experience Him through His word?

2. Experiencing God’s word within our hearts

Now, let’s talk about what it is like to experience God through His word. When we understand God’s word, our eyes will be opened to something that will feel extremely meaningful to us. We will be deeply convicted. It is almost a “burning” within our hearts! This excitement and joy that understanding the word of God brings is different than simply learning something new. The Bible says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Ps 119:105). Understanding the word of God is like having a flashlight. When we come to understand the word of God, we receive sufficient light to help us see the path ahead of us that says “God’s Way.” Throughout our lives, we will need much light to help us find and follow the path that leads us to the kingdom of God. There is only one path and the only thing that gives light to help us get us there is the knowledge of God. While learning other things may help us achieve more in this life, only the word of God teaches us the way to eternal life, which is much more valuable. Let me share a testimony with you.

For many years, David lived very far away from church. Because of the far distance, he only used to go to church every one to two months. At that time, he never thought about moving closer to church. In his mind, relocating meant finding a new school for each of his three kids, finding a new job, and moving everything they have in the house to a new house far, far away. It just didn’t seem to make sense for him to go through all this trouble in order to be able attend church services on Saturday.

One Saturday, David drove four hours to church in the morning to attend Sabbath. His children attended R.E. classes while he and his wife were listening to a sermon. That day, David and his wife learned about placing God first in life. Matthew 6:33 says, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Even though they didn’t talk to each other during the sermon, later

they found out that they both received the same message that day—they haven’t put God first in their lives because they chose to remain in their comfortable life instead of moving closer to the church of God. After the service, David asked his children, “So, what did you learn during R.E. class?” They responded, “We didn’t really follow because we weren’t here for the previous lessons...” It was that moment that really struck David and his wife. They realized that by bringing their children to church only once every one to two months, they were putting their faith in jeopardy. They finally understood that putting God first in their lives required them to come out of their comfort zone and do work for the Lord.

In the following weeks, David and his wife prayed a lot together. They both had a burning desire in their hearts to put God first in their lives by relocating to somewhere closer to the church. Even though this had always seemed like a big hassle for them before, they were now very excited about moving because they couldn’t wait to go to church every Saturday.

Their understanding of putting God first in their lives was no longer the same. They learned that God is the top priority in their lives and that their decision to relocate was right. After a few months of hard work, David’s family finally moved. They go to church every Saturday, and their children have not missed an R.E. class since.

3. Drawing closer to God each day

The Bible says, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (Jas 4:8). Today, if we really want to understand God and His word, we must strive to draw closer to Him in our daily lives. God's presence surrounds us every day; it is up to us if we are willing to receive Him into our hearts and experience Him. If we constantly draw closer to God, we will be able to build a stronger relationship with Him. Let me share with you four easy steps that allow us to experience God each day!

1. Prepare your heart

In order to draw closer to God, we must first prepare our hearts... Something has to happen deep within us if we are going to experience Him. If we really want God to give us something new, we must realize that it will only happen when we take the time to prepare our hearts. There may be things in our heart that can prevent us from drawing closer to God. We need to put away the worldly things first. Can you give examples of worldly things you should put away when you prepare to pray to God, and when you come to church to worship Him? (Possible answers: Watching TV, playing electronic games or computer games, hanging out with worldly friends and chatting about useless or even unedifying things that do not please God, etc.)

2. Draw near to God in prayer

We need to pour out our heart to Him in prayer if we want to draw closer to Him. God looks for ways to reach into our hearts and do a greater work in our lives. One way is for us to separate from the world and spend time alone with Him, putting away some of those things that take so much of our time. If we spend more time in prayer, it gives God an opportunity to come near and visit us. How much time do you spend a day praying to God? Are you

really communicating with God during the time when you pray or are you simply going through the routine, perhaps as required by your parents?

3. Study God's Word

Now, besides spending time in prayer, we also need to spend time in the word. If we take time to read the Bible and to study it, we will find that, all at once, it becomes alive to us. There will be something about it that draws us to it, something that enriches our heart. One way to draw closer to God is to enlarge our understanding of Him and His teachings. This is very important. Can you list one incident where the teaching of God helped you or comforted you?

4. Lay Aside Meaningless Things

What does God do with His free time? Does He do meaningless things? God doesn't waste His time. We can't quiet our hearts while we are watching TV, browsing the Internet, or playing video games. These things will only rob us of seeking God and rob us of drawing closer to Him. If you really want to draw nearer to God, distance yourself from all the things that are meaningless. Those things will only cause greed and foolishness to settle in your heart. Redeem that idle time, giving yourself over to God and earnestly seeking Him. What are some activities that you can do in your free time that will nourish your soul, instead of causing your minds to be more restless? (Possible answers: Reading, playing some musical instrument, doing some crafts, gardening, taking a walk and enjoying God's creation, etc.)

"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you..." Let us continue to seek after God and enjoy new experiences with Him every day!

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Emmaus
2. Jerusalem
3. Dinner
4. False; He walked the entire journey with them
5. True
6. True
7. True
8. False; He told Peter to take care of all His sheep.
9. A. Prepare my heart; B. Study God's word; C. Draw near to God in prayer; D. Set aside meaningless things
10. Answers may vary.

ACTIVITY

1**Being Close to God****Objective:** To illustrate that the closer the students are to God, the stronger their relationship with Him will be.**Instructions**

1. First, divide the students equally and have them stand in two lines, facing each other, about 10 feet apart. Each student will need to be facing another student.
2. The students will be tossing a piece of popcorn back and forth to the person across from them. If you have an odd number of students, the extra student can count the number of successful catches.
3. Give all the students in the first row, called "Row A", a piece of popcorn. Instruct the students that on your signal, they will toss the piece of popcorn 10 feet across the aisle to the person directly facing them in "Row B."
4. Instruct the older students to use only one hand to toss or to catch the popcorn. Tell the students that the popcorn in this activity represents our relationship with God.
5. Give the signal and have the students toss the popcorn. Many of the tosses will fall short since the students are so far apart. Record the number of successful throws on a chalkboard or whiteboard.
6. Make sure each student in "Row B" has a piece of popcorn. Each student in "Row B" will take one step towards "Row A." Then on your signal, have the students toss the popcorn again.
7. Once again, record the number of successful throws on a chalkboard or whiteboard. Do this several more times, each time taking one step closer until the two rows are together. Once together, the students can simply drop the popcorn into the hands of the other person, resulting in no misses.

Explain that our relationship with God is similar to what we just did. The further away the students were from each other, the harder it was for them to catch the popcorn. Likewise, the further we are from God, the harder it is to have a relationship with God. On the other hand, the closer we are to God, the easier it will be to have a strong relationship with Him. How can we get closer to God? We can get closer to God by reading the Bible, praying, singing praises, and doing things that show our obedience to Him.

2**What Happened?****Objective:** To remind students that Jesus rose from the dead after three days.**Materials**

- Envelopes
- Stamps
- Pencils
- Markers

Instructions

1. Tell the students that they will be writing a thank you letter to a brother or sister in church who has helped them learn more about Jesus. It can be a pastor, another teacher, a parent or grandparent, or even a friend.
2. Brainstorm as a class what kinds of words can be used.
3. Help them by giving them some starter phrases.
4. Once the students have an idea in their head, provide each student with a piece of paper for them to write the letter.
5. Afterward, provide envelopes and stamps so that the students can mail these notes out the same day. The students can give it directly to the person, if possible.

E1 Year 3 Book 2 Lesson 11—Jesus Appears

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Jesus strengthened the faith of His followers by appearing to them after His resurrection.

Lesson Objective: To grow closer to Jesus.

Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(James 4:8a)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fill In the Blank

Dinner Emmaus Jerusalem

1. Two followers of Jesus were going to the town of _____ when Jesus appeared to them.
2. When they found out that the Man was Jesus, they ran back to _____ to tell the disciples.
3. The two followers finally recognized Jesus at _____.

True or False.

4. Jesus got mad at the followers because they didn't recognize Him. _____
5. Jesus patiently explained to His followers concerning the Scripture _____
6. At first, Thomas did not believe that Jesus Christ had resurrected.. _____
7. Jesus asked Thomas to touch His hand and His side. _____
8. Jesus said "Blessed are those who seen and believe." _____

Short Answer

9. What can you do for Jesus today to show that you love Him? List at least 3 things that you've learned from the Life Application .

Life Application

10. If you want to start building a strong relationship with God, you've got to do something each day. Think of things you can do each day next week to draw closer to God, and write them down in this weekly plan below.

My One-Week Plan to Draw Closer to God

Sunday	
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	
Saturday	