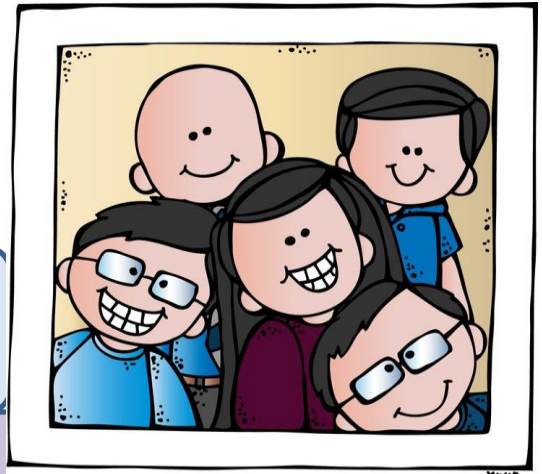




April 18, 2021

Luke 24: 35-48

Equipped to Serve



**Materials Needed:** Bible, Faith journal, writing or coloring tools

Note: This lesson is designed to be used for all ages. Please tailor it to the age and needs of your children.

**Opening Prayer:** Dear, Jesus, we believe that you rose from the dead and Your Spirit lives within us. You want us to depend on You to help us as we continue Your mission. May our ears be open to your teaching, our eyes open to see how we can serve you, and our hearts open for your love. Amen.

### Warm Up:

Imagine the kitchen sink has a leak underneath. Water is dripping and ruining the wood under the sink. Your parents tell you to go fix it. They don't give you any directions or tools. How will you fix it?

Imagine if you had to write a book report for school but didn't have the book!

Imagine your parents told you to go fix dinner for the family but there is no recipe book and no food. What would you do?

For every task we need some kind of training and usually some equipment.

In today's Gospel Jesus assigns a big task for His friends. They are just poor fishermen and townspeople. Will they be able to do what Jesus commands?

### Gospel Reading:

**Background:** The disciples were afraid and sad. Their friend Jesus had been killed because of His teachings and they could be arrested and killed also. Mary Magdalene said that Jesus was not in the tomb but was alive! That didn't make sense!

Then two disciples walked to the town of Emmaus and came back saying that Jesus appeared to them on the road. How could that be? They didn't know what to do so they hid in a locked room and prayed.

*A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. Glory to You, Lord.*

Read, or have your child read Luke 24:35-48.

*The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.*

### Discussion:

Why were the disciples afraid when Jesus appeared?

How did He show that He was not a ghost? (He showed that He had flesh and bones, He ate)

Once they knew that He was real and not a ghost, what did Jesus do?

He taught them about the scriptures (the Old Testament) and explained the places where it was written that He would die and rise again. He wanted them to understand about Him.

What was the last thing Jesus said in this reading? You will be my witnesses

Are the disciples equipped to be teachers? How do you think they felt?

### Owning the Message:

What would you do if Jesus appeared to You today and told you to go tell your friends about Him?  
What if He told you to go to the mall or school or the streets of Detroit and teach people about Jesus?  
Would you be nervous? I know I would! What skills would you need?

Read the next verse (Luke 24:49) He tells them that He will send “what My Father has promised. But you must wait in the city until the power from above comes down upon you.”

Jesus knew they weren't ready yet. They needed instructions and tools for the job!

Do you know what Jesus sent to help them? It is the third person of the trinity, the Holy Spirit!

On Pentecost, which we will celebrate May 23<sup>rd</sup>, the disciples received the Holy Spirit. It filled them with the courage and desire to be Jesus' witnesses. You can read about it in the **Acts of the Apostles chapter 2**.

Without the Holy Spirit, they would not have had the courage, words or power to teach, heal and baptize people in Jesus' name. That same Holy Spirit has been given to you!

When Jesus calls you to do something, He will give you the equipment to do it, even if you are nervous or don't feel strong enough. In fact, He will give you step by step directions as you do His work, just as He did for the disciples. He will even put His words in your heart as He did for Peter in **Acts 4:1-13**

You received the Holy Spirit at Baptism and it is strengthened in you through other sacraments and by spending time with God in prayer. The Spirit brings seven gifts:

- Wisdom
- Understanding (understanding others, having compassion)
- Right Judgement (knowing right from wrong)
- Fortitude (inner strength, courage)
- Knowledge
- Reverence (honoring God and His creation, including all people)
- Wonder and Awe (gratitude for all God's blessings)

Tell about a time you had to do something that took a lot of courage. Students and parents share.

Do you think God was helping you?

God may not be telling you to go teach nations about Him, but He may be asking you to forgive someone, or to apologize for something you did. He may be calling you to try a new activity or introduce yourself to a new neighbor. Everyone's call is different. What do you think God wants you to do?

Whatever it is, His Spirit will be in you, giving you courage, and sometimes the words to say, as he did for the Apostles.

### Activity:

Choose one of the crafts below to create a reminder of the Holy Spirit and its gifts.

**Option 1: Grades 1 and 3** might prefer the Pinwheel craft. When the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost it came with wind and flames. This pinwheel is meant to remind students of the Pentecost story.

**Option 2: Grades 4-6** may create the paper plate Spirit craft which includes the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**Option 3:** Make a poster with the Holy Spirit prayer (see closing prayer) so you remember to pray it every day.

**Option 4:** for non-crafters: Choose one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and write a few paragraphs in your faith journal telling how that gift has helped you in the past and how you hope it will help you in the future.

Please use specific examples or stories.

**Prayer:** Dear God, thank you for calling me to do Your work. Send down Your Spirit to strengthen me for the challenges of each day. **Holy Spirit Prayer:** Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and we shall be created and You shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.

**Checking In:** Send a picture of your student's activity to [mfitzpatrick@sjnovi.net](mailto:mfitzpatrick@sjnovi.net)

Search "Catholic Inspired Holy Spirit Crafts" for specific instructions or just let the Spirit guide you!

