

POINT ➔ **WE ACCEPT
GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

Open your Bible to Luke 24, and show children the words. SAY: **Penny the Puppy** is going to tell us what God's special book, the Bible, says about how Jesus appeared to two of his followers after he came back to life. **Followers** are people who walked with Jesus and believed in him. When Penny says "Jesus," put your hand up and point to the sky. When you hear "alive," jump up one time and then sit back down. Use Penny to read the following.

After *Jesus* (pause) came back to life, two of his followers were walking together, talking about his death. *Jesus* (pause) came along and walked with them, but they didn't know it was him. *Jesus* (pause) asked them what they were talking about. They said that *Jesus* (pause) had died, and now, after three days, his body was missing, and some people said that *Jesus* (pause) was *alive* (pause) again. *Jesus* (pause) then told them what the Bible said about how he would

die but come *alive* (pause) again. He told them they could believe *Jesus* (pause) is *alive* (pause).

Later that night, *Jesus* (pause) ate with them. As soon as he broke the bread and gave it to them, the two followers realized that the man was *Jesus* (pause). Suddenly, *Jesus* (pause) just disappeared! The two followers believed *Jesus* (pause) was truly *alive* (pause)!

ASK: The people on the road asked Jesus questions. If you could ask Jesus a question, what would you ask him?

What are some ways you know Jesus is with you all the time?

SAY: We don't get to see Jesus like his followers did. But he shows us he's with us all the time! When ➔ **WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS**, we can remember that Jesus is with us.



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Hold the *Bubble Ball*, and have the children stand with you in a circle.

SAY: ➔ **WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.** Jesus wanted to share with the two followers what the Bible said about him so they could believe and accept his forgiveness. Let's pretend we're there and we're walking along with these two people, telling them about Jesus. Have the children walk in the circle one time around.

When I toss the ball to you, I'll ask you a question. Answer it the best you can, and then toss the ball back to me. Make sure each child gets a chance to answer at least one of the following questions, repeating questions as much as you like.

ASK: **What's one thing you believe about Jesus?**

What's one reason you love Jesus?

If you could tell a friend one thing about Jesus, what would it be?

After everyone has had a turn, put the ball away. SAY: **The people in the Bible were confused about what the Bible said about Jesus. But when he explained it and spent time with them, they understood. God wants us to know that Jesus died but is alive now. We can believe in him, and ➔ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**

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SAY: When Jesus asked the two followers what they were talking about as they walked, they told him what had happened during the last few days. Other people had told them the news about Jesus' body being missing from his tomb. After they told Jesus, he shared what the Bible had to say about his death and coming back to life.

Let's pretend we're like the two followers, sharing our news with Jesus. Have children stand in a circle with you. Whisper the following line to the child next to you, who will then whisper it to the next child, and so on, until it gets back to you: "Jesus died, but now he's alive." Repeat what you hear from the last child, and tell how it compares to the original line.

SAY: Now let's pretend we're like Jesus, sharing what the Bible says about him. Go around the circle in the opposite direction, whispering the following line: "Jesus forgives us." Repeat what you hear from the last child, and compare it to the original line.

ASK: Tell about a time you told someone about Jesus.

What are some things people have said about Jesus that you're not sure you can believe?

How do you know what to believe about Jesus?

SAY: We can't always believe everything we hear. But we can believe the Bible that tells us Jesus came back to life so we can be forgiven. And we don't have to whisper to tell the news about Jesus! When ➔ **WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.** it's so exciting that we can go tell all our friends!

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Get out the *Rainbow Clay*, and form it into a loaf of bread. SAY: **Something happened when Jesus broke the bread and gave it to the two followers at dinner. They recognized Jesus! I'm going to break this pretend loaf of bread and pass out pieces to you. But don't eat it! Remember, it's just for pretending.**

Once the children have all received pretend bread, have them each shape the clay into another small loaf.

ASK: **What special food does your family share at special times, such as Easter?**

What's something that reminds you of Jesus?

SAY: **A lot of amazing things happened in the Bible when Jesus had bread. Once, he passed out pieces of bread from just five little loaves, and the pieces were enough to feed a huge crowd of hungry people! And he ate bread with his friends during their special dinner together before he died on the**

cross.

We can accept a piece of bread from our mom or dad when they hand it to us, and ➔ WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS because he gives it to us. This week when you eat bread, remember what Jesus did for you! Collect the clay and put it away.

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SAY: Jesus didn't want the two followers he began speaking with to know who he was right away. He didn't need to use a mask to hide his face, but if you or I wanted to keep someone from recognizing us, wearing a mask might be a good way to do it.

We're going to make masks to remind us that Jesus didn't want the two followers to recognize him. Pass out paper and *Pip-Squeaks Markers*. Help the children determine where they should make holes for their eyes and mouths, and mark those places on their masks.

SAY: **Draw any face you want on your mask. Make it look different from your face.** As kids draw their faces, cut out their eye and mouth holes for them.

SAY: **Hold your mask over your face while we talk about some questions.**

ASK: **What do you think Jesus looks like?**

How do you recognize Jesus when he shows his love in your life?

SAY: Jesus recognizes you (even behind your mask!) and wants to forgive you. ➔ **WE ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.**