

Gospel for April 18, 2021- lesson for 4th-6th grade Read the below Gospel slowly listening for words or phrases that catch your attention. Read it again. Do you think you get a deeper understanding by re-reading the story multiple times? Do you find yourself focusing on different parts? What word(s) or phrase(s) stood out to you? Answer questions & do the activity below.

Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

Questions to ponder:

- ◆ What is the first thing Jesus says to his disciples?
- ◆ What do the disciples think they are seeing? How do they feel?
- ◆ What does Jesus say and do to convince the disciples that he's real?
- ◆ Why might it help the disciples to see and feel Jesus' wounds?
- ◆ What does Jesus say about repentance and forgiveness?
- ◆ What are the disciples to do with this message?

Activity - FORGIVENESS

"Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

Think of something someone has done which hurt you. Think of something you may have done to hurt someone else. Take a piece of paper and write down the hurt that you want to forgive. Then write down something for which you want to be forgiven. You can write multiple things and be as detailed (or not) as you'd like. Then pray (aloud or silently):

- ◆ Dear God, help me to forgive...
- ◆ Dear God, forgive me for...

As you pray, tear the paper in pieces - make them as tiny as you want 🙏

- ◆ When is forgiveness hard? easy?
- ◆ Why might it be important to forgive? to be forgiven?
- ◆ What can we say or do to show that we want forgiveness?
- ◆ What can we say or do to show that we forgive someone else?

Remember when God forgives our sins, God promises to forget all about them, as if they never existed.

Thank you, God, for sending Jesus to us. Thank you for telling us that, through Jesus, you forgive all our sins. Help us to forgive others, too. Amen.