



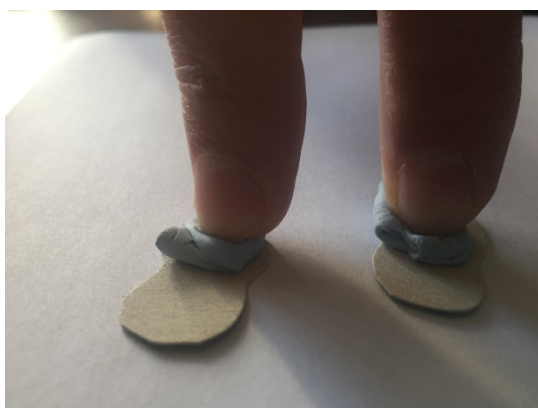
An Easter surprise

A confusing, sad time turns into an amazing surprise –
it just took a walk, a wait and a meal!

Activity time

Try these activities and see if you can start guessing what might happen in our story today. If you can't get exactly these materials, just see what you can find around the house instead!

1 Footprints



You will need: cardboard; craft knife or scissors; chopping board; sticky tack or PVA glue; paper; paint

With adult supervision, cut the cardboard into the rough shape of little feet (a small disc will be fine, if a foot shape is too fiddly) – make them small enough to stick on to the end of your finger as if your finger is the leg. Stick a foot with sticky tack or PVA glue on to the tip of your middle and index fingers, dip into the paint and 'walk' your feet along the paper, leaving a footprint trail behind. Repeat it with a different colour of paint walking beside the first set. Then, with a third colour, add a third set of footprints joining the first two half way across the paper.

Talk about how in today's story, two of Jesus' friends were walking down the road on Easter afternoon, when someone very surprising met them and walked along with them as far as their home. Perhaps when you've heard the story, you'd like to add what each of those sets of footprints did next!

2 Slo-fast races

You will need: a clear space inside or out; a timer

The challenge is to see who can go from A to B the most slowly: make a note of the time it takes each person – you can all do it together. Then see who can be fastest to go from B back to A.

Talk about how sometimes when you're sad, a journey can seem to take a really long time, but when you're happy, the same journey can pass by really quickly. I wonder why two friends of Jesus went one way with very heavy sad hearts, but came back again the same day at full speed and full of excitement.

3 Design a boardgame

You will need: different coloured card or paper; scissors; some print-offs of the book titles from the Old Testament; dice; pens; a bread roll or slice of bread (or a picture of one)

Explain that two of Jesus' friends were joined on their walk home from Jerusalem on Easter Sunday by a stranger who explained who Jesus was, using books from the Old Testament, as we know it today – the bit of the Bible written before Jesus was born. Can you devise a boardgame where 1) the players have to get from Jerusalem to Emmaus, 2) on the way, every Old Testament book needs to be used somehow on the journey, and 3) to win the game, the player has to 'break the bread' in Emmaus.

Talk about what stories you know from this part of the Bible.

4 Mentos geyser

You will need: Mentos; a bottle of coke; a sheet of paper for a funnel; space outdoors

This is an oldie but somehow irresistible fun every time. You can find photos and video in the [Messy Church Does Science](#) resources. Make a funnel from the paper and pour the Mentos as quickly as you can into a newly opened bottle of coke. And STAND WELL BACK!

Talk about moments in your life when suddenly everything changes. The friends in today's story had one of those moments, not over coke and Mentos, but over a loaf of bread, when something equally startling happened.

Celebration

Sing along to [My Lighthouse](#).

Read the story together from [Luke 24:13-35](#).

- Why do you think Cleopas and his friend didn't recognise Jesus on the road?
- How would you feel if you suddenly realised Jesus had been with you through a really sad time and you hadn't recognised him?
- If you could ask Jesus one question, what would it be?

Turn these questions into prayers, and finish by thanking Jesus that he walks beside us, like he walked beside Cleopas and his friend, even if we don't recognise him every time.

Say the [Lord's Prayer](#) together, with or without actions.

Say the [Messy Grace](#) if you usually do that at Messy Church.

Mealttime

Take a look at [this famous painting](#) of the moment when everyone realised who was breaking the bread. What is there on the table that you could make for your meal today? (To be fair, it was painted about 1,600 years after Jesus was on the road to Emmaus!)