

Kids' Chronicle

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BY CINDY BASSETT

Two followers meet the risen Jesus

"Why did all of those terrible things happen?" I said to Cleopas as we walked toward our home town.

Cleopas sighed. "Even now, I don't understand any of it. I really thought that Jesus was the Messiah."

My friend and I were still talking about how sad and disappointed we both felt when a man caught up with us. "We seem to be heading in the same direction," the stranger said. "Mind if I walk along?"

"Not at all," Cleopas replied. "We're headed for Emmaus."

"You both seem very upset," the man said. "Sometimes it helps to talk about your troubles."

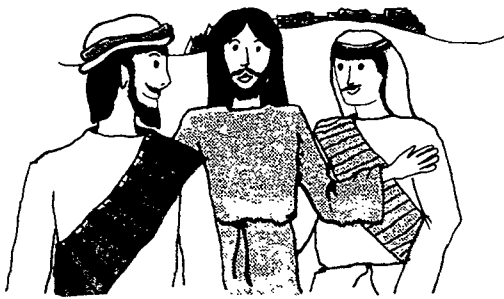
"We've lost someone who was very close to us," I began. "And it never should have happened."

"We were so sure that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah promised by God long ago," Cleopas added. "But our own religious leaders turned him over to the Roman government and he was crucified and died last week."

The stranger's face was blank. He didn't seem to know what we were talking about. "Didn't you hear what happened?" I asked.

"Why don't you tell me about it," he suggested.

"Last Thursday, we had gathered at a friend's house to celebrate the Passover," I began. "During the



Illustrations by Kathy Welsh

meal, Jesus took bread and wine and blessed it. Before he passed it to each of us to share, he said the oddest thing: 'When you do this again, do it in memory of me.'"

"It was as if Jesus knew that he was going to die," Cleopas continued. "And when he died the next day, all of our hopes for the new kingdom he promised died with him."

"Then today we received a report from some women who had gone to anoint the body of Jesus at his tomb. They claim that they saw a vision of angels and his body was missing."

"I don't understand why you are both so unhappy," the stranger said. "If you read what the prophets said about the Messiah in Scripture, you would understand that everything that happened was part of God's plan."

Our companion told us many stor-

ies from the Old Testament and explained what they meant. Cleopas and I were both feeling much better by the time we reached Emmaus.

"Goodbye, friends," the man said as he turned to leave.

"It's getting late," I offered, "and we live nearby. Come and share a hot meal and be our guest tonight."

When I served dinner, it was our new friend who said the blessing. Then he broke the small loaf of bread into three pieces and gave us each a portion. Suddenly it was very familiar.

"Jesus!" Cleopas and I both said together.

And with our flash of recognition, Jesus vanished.

The road back to Jerusalem was dark. But Cleopas and I scarcely noticed. Our feet seemed to fly the seven miles back to the city. This news was too wonderful to keep until morning. Jesus had risen! The new kingdom had begun!

Read More About It: Luke 24:13-35.

Q & A

1. How did Cleopas and his companion finally recognize Jesus?

2. In what sacrament does Jesus meet us in a special way?

The Bible Times

33 A.D.

Jerusalem — Eyewitnesses claim to have seen alive Jesus of Nazareth, who was executed last week for attempting to overthrow the government.

Two of the dead man's followers said they spoke with Jesus on a road between Jerusalem and Emmaus. They also claimed that he had come to their house for dinner.

Thomas Didymus told reporters that he had seen Jesus alive in the city. "I placed my hand in the side of Jesus that had been pierced through with a sword on the day he died," he said.

Some commercial fisherman also said they had spoken with Christ on a beach off the Sea of Galilee.

On Sunday, three women reported Jesus' body missing from the tomb where he had been buried. They also claim that angels had told them that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Asked about claims that Jesus had risen from the dead, Hebrew priests called the eyewitnesses liars, adding, "We plan to arrest these followers of Jesus and put an end to this nonsense."

Talking to God

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for loving us with a special way for you to come into our hearts. May I receive you with love and respect.

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want.

You prepare a table for me in the presence of my enemies."

Psalm 23:1-5.

King Solomon's Wisdom



"Do not forget my teaching, but keep all of my words in your heart, for they will give you a long and good life."

Proverbs 3:1-2.

Quote Scramble



At the Last Supper, Jesus left his followers with a special promise for all who come to the table and receive him in Communion. Unscramble the quote to discover what Jesus said about himself. Answer on page 18.

"I ma het vgiinl derba atth aecm wodn morf nevahe. fi nyonae sate fo sith abder, stih nospre llwi veli reeovf."

Kids' Club

Win a \$50 Savings Bond!

Jesus promised to be with you always. Besides the Holy Eucharist, in what other ways do you meet Jesus in your daily life?

Write an answer of 100 or fewer words. Include your name, home address, telephone number, school and grade. The winner will earn a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond. (Winner will be notified by phone; the essay will be printed in an upcoming edition of Kids' Chronicle. Send your entry to: Cindy Bassett, c/o Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

Deadline: May 21, 1992.



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Essay Winner

Congratulations to Christine Valera, age 9, a third-grade student at St. Thomas the Apostle School. She is the winner of the \$50 Savings Bond for the best essay in the April Kids' Club contest. Her essay is reprinted below.

April Essay Question: Does God forgive even the worst criminal? Why or why not?

God forgives the worst criminal, but only those who are sorry. If they are not sorry, God doesn't forgive them, but He still loves them. If a criminal is sent to jail, God will still love and guide him. God never stops loving anyone.

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