

First Communion Session 2 of 4

Jesus is Present With Us Now The Road To Emmaus

Relationships are nourished and strengthened by food communication shared and expressed love, and quality presence. Our relationship with Jesus is not unlike others in our lives. Although we don't encounter Jesus in the same way as we do other people, he offers us a chance to have a relationship with him through communication, love and presence.

The special presence of Jesus in the Word and Sacrament is an incredible gift to us and to all of the Church. It is the way we continue and strengthen our relationship with him.

In this lesson, we read about the two disciples on their way to Emmaus. Their hearts burned as they discovered that the Risen Jesus was present with them. May our hearts and the hearts of all those preparing for the Sacrament of the Eucharist burn with joy as we celebrate the gift of our own encounter and relationship with Jesus.

Points to make in this lesson

- To explain that the Risen Jesus is with us today in a special way.
- To recognize what occurs during the Communion Rite
- To identify the proper way to receive Holy Communion

Together pray the prayer on the front of the activity booklet

Take a minute with your child and remind them of the last First Communion paper that had to do with the Last Supper, ask him/her to tell you the story. Ask them if they have ever talked to someone on the phone but they didn't recognize who it was at first, or maybe one of their friends or neighbors dressed up for halloween and they didn't recognize them. When they talked, did they figure it out? Or was it what the friend said? Or was it how the friend behaved and moved?

Tell your child that this story is after the Last Supper and some things happened in the story between then and the Road to Emmaus. Invite your child to find Luke 24:13-35 (pages 1643 and 1646) and then read the story together. Then go through the pages in the middle of the story located on pages 1644-1645 and go over these.

It is curious that after all this time with Jesus here among them in his 100% human form (although also 100% God), his friends were still confused about some things. Not even they could quite figure out what was going on or what was going to happen next. But Christ reminds them with this adventure that He has conquered death and it has no power over Him by showing up right with them. Did he disguise himself? You might be able to guess someone in disguise if you expected to see them, but if you didn't, they would be harder to recognize. And

who expected to see someone they knew who had died? But Jesus' actions are what gives Him away and then they really *see* Him.

When we see Jesus in the Eucharist, it is very much the same. When the priest is making the offering of the bread and wine to God during Mass, even though he doesn't look any different, at that moment, that priest is acting in ***persona christi***, this means that the priest is not really the one changing the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus. It means that Jesus is there acting through that priest and is offering up the sacrifice. And then Jesus again is with us in the form of the Holy Eucharist, looking disguised as bread and wine, but He is really there. When we receive communion, Jesus is in us and with us always.

Help your child complete the worksheet included with this lesson, including the back page.

Closing Prayer

The prayer at the bottom of the back page of the worksheet and a Hail Mary, followed by a special blessing by the parents on the child.