



1 Gather Together

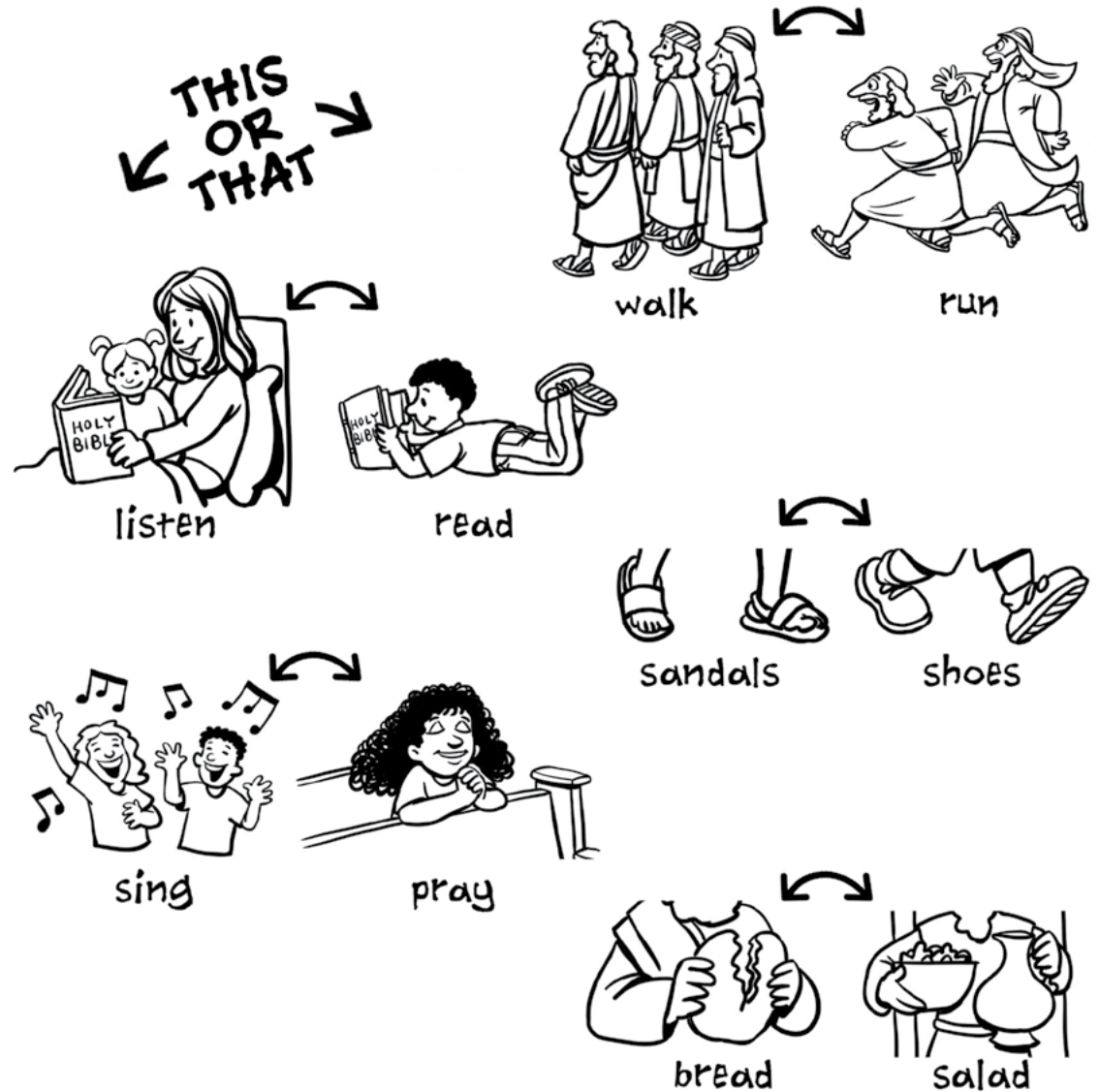
WAYS TO PRACTICE AT HOME

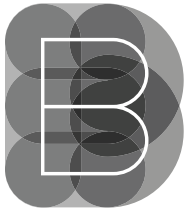
Worship is the central practice of our faith. When we worship, we are reminded of who God is, and who we are in the community of believers. There are so many ways to worship God: in song, in prayer, in action, in word. When we worship God, whether at home or in church, it is pleasing to God.

- Set up a dedicated space in your home where the family can gather to worship God. Set out a couple of pillows to sit on, a Bible or Bible storybook, and a cross. If possible, make a cross together, either by drawing one or making a cross from items in your home. Use this space to gather as a family to say a prayer or sing a song praising God.
- Watch “Jesus on the Road to Emmaus—Bible Story—LifeKids” (bit.ly/FMEmmausRoad, 2:29). Talk together about how it feels to know that God is with us wherever we are. Wonder if you feel God’s presence more when you are gathered at church. Remember that God is always with you!
- If weather and location permit, make a chalk path on a sidewalk or driveway. Make a chalk sign for Jerusalem at the beginning and for Emmaus at the end. Come up with markings to signify places to turn around, to skip, to hop, and so forth. Invite a friend to try the path with you. Watch your path over a few days to see if others try to follow it. Talk about following a path and how the friends in the Bible story felt having another person join them.

God who gathers us as one body, may we give you glory in worship and in creating community centered on your Word and in your love. Amen.

The people in our story had some choices to make: be sad that Jesus was gone or be happy that they knew Jesus, tell others about seeing Jesus or keep it a secret, and more. When we gather at church or at home, we have choices too. In the choices below, there is no right or wrong answer, just whichever you would like better. Color the one that you like more.





BIBLE STORY

Based on Luke 24:13–35

Two of Jesus' friends were on a long walk together. They were feeling sad because their teacher and friend, Jesus, had just been arrested and killed. He died and was buried in a tomb. They were also feeling very confused because, earlier that morning, other friends went to where Jesus was buried and found the tomb empty. While on their long walk, they were talking about all of the things that had happened when a stranger joined them. (It was Jesus, but they did not recognize him.)

Gathered together, the three travelers talked as they walked. The two friends, still not realizing that this man who had joined them was Jesus, were shocked to learn that the man had not heard about everything that had happened, so they told him the story of Jesus' last days in Jerusalem. Jesus reminded the two to remember the words of the prophets (familiar to Jewish people at the time) that were at the heart of their worship and teaching of the faith. In the same way a teacher or pastor can explain Bible stories, Jesus helped the two as they were walking to understand how the things that had happened fit in with the stories they knew from their faith.

Finally, the three travelers reached the town of Emmaus. The travelers invited the stranger (Remember, it's Jesus!) to stay with them and have dinner. It had been a long day, and it was time to eat. Before eating the bread together, the stranger took the bread in his hands, said a prayer of blessing, broke the bread in two, and gave the bread to them. Something clicked. All of a sudden, it was like their eyes opened up and they saw Jesus. Their hearts were warm with love for him, and they remembered how, just a few days before, Jesus had shared bread to eat and wine to drink with them as they had sabbath worship together. Just as suddenly, Jesus was no longer there, but the two thought about all Jesus had said to them while they were walking together. They immediately went to find the other disciples to share the good news that Jesus had been with them, walking with them, teaching them, and breaking bread with them.

