

The Adventures of Lily & Noah

Jesus was on a Mission — The Triumphal Entry

The last time we saw Lily and Noah, they were planning a trip to a Grizzlies Basketball game after a great week 1 at Street Reach. Now we catch up with them again beginning week 5. It's Sunday afternoon, and the kids are busy getting their chores done in preparation for the week. Folding clothes, picking up their bedroom – all the yucky stuff no kid wants to do! But it didn't take long. Soon, rooms were clean, and backpacks were loaded and by the front door for tomorrow.

Grannie was in the kitchen making chicken and dumplings with green beans and biscuits. Daddy was washing the car, and Papa was giving Lily's wheelchair a once-over to make sure everything was in working order.

Aria and Ezra were coming for supper with their Mom and Dad. They were bringing a pound cake for dessert.

That night, supper was delicious. Daddy was talking at the end of the meal about a possible trip to the Memphis Botanic Garden on Saturday. Oh boy, thought Lily! She loves to go there. Have any of you been to the Botanic Garden?

Later that evening, Lily went to her room for bedtime. She likes to read for a while before bed. Noah and Ezra played a game of checkers, and then everyone finally headed for bed.

Monday morning is here. The kids get ready for school and head to the kitchen for breakfast. Grannie had French Toast with powdered sugar sprinkled on it. Soon Papa loaded everyone up for the trip to school.

Monday at school was uneventful, and the kids had a good day. After school, Papa was waiting for them. They got home to have a snack before the week 4 Street Reach church people came down the street.

Lily was now used to Street Reach's routine and looked forward to it. They joined the new church people for the trip to their site.

The church leader waited for the kids to get into their circle before talking. "Hi everyone! She said. "We are so glad to be here with you this week. We have a very special week to talk about."

Monday's story goes something like this....

As Jesus came closer to Jerusalem, he asked two of his disciples to go ahead of Him. He said, "When you get to the town, you will see a donkey tied up. Untie it and bring it to me. If anyone asks you about taking the donkey, just tell them, 'The Lord needs it and He will bring it back as soon as He's done with it.'"

So, the disciples did as Jesus asked. They soon found the donkey tied at a doorway. As they were untying it, some people were standing nearby visiting. They didn't recognize the men and asked, "What are you doing? Why are you untying the donkey?"

They replied just as Jesus had told them to. Explaining that the Lord needed it, the people let them go.

When they brought the donkey to Jesus, some of the disciples took off their coats and laid them on the donkey's back. They did this out of respect for Jesus. Then Jesus rode on the donkey towards Jerusalem.

As He was traveling, some people saw Jesus coming and ran to Him. They had heard He might be coming, and they wanted to see him because he had just helped a dead man come back to life.

One by one, they laid their coats on the ground for the donkey to step on. Even the people who weren't wearing coats ran to the fields and trees nearby and cut palm branches and laid them down.

These people knew that Jesus was special. It was like when a King or Queen would come to town, and people would roll out a red carpet for him or her to step on. This is what these people did for Jesus when they laid down their coats and branches.

As they got even closer to the town, more and more people noticed Jesus. A crowd surrounded Him and started to shout praises to Him for all the miracles He had done: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna, Hosanna!"

The word Hosanna means save us. They said this because Jesus was helping them and doing amazing things. They wanted to praise Him and for Him to keep helping them.

Some men named Pharisees (who thought they were important; many people listened to them). They heard the crowd praising God. They said to Jesus, "Teacher, why don't you tell these people to stop praising you as if you were God?"

The Pharisees thought that Jesus was getting too much attention from the people. They wanted to be the most important, but everyone was listening to Jesus instead.

Jesus replied, "If they were quiet now, even the rocks would cry out!" Even the rocks knew that He was God; after all, Jesus did make them. Now Jesus could see Jerusalem, and it made Him very sad. He came to help the people, but no one realized that He was God, and they didn't accept Him.

After the story, the story leader started to talk. "Now, Jesus was coming to Jerusalem for the Passover. As we will find out over the next few days, this is the most important week in the life of Jesus, and it means a great deal to all of us.

This is the Easter story week, thought Lily. She knows some of the story, but not all of it. The kids lingered for a bit, asking the church leader questions. Then they went around to their other rotations. On the walk home, the church people talked with the kids. Lily was telling them about school and her family. These church people were easy to talk to. Some of them were in high school. This was going to be a fun week, she decided! Once home, Lily rolled herself toward the kitchen to find Grannie.

"Grannie!" she said. "We heard a story about Jesus riding into town on a donkey. I don't think I've ever seen a donkey. Are they just like horses?" "No," Grannie said. "They're a bit smaller. We'll look them up tonight on the computer after supper, so you can see." Good, Lily thought. She wants to understand all of this.

Group Discussion Questions:

Why did Jesus ride into Jerusalem on a donkey?

Why did people shout and wave palm branches as he rode by?

Imagine yourself there; what do you think it was like?

What is Palm Sunday?

Bible Verse:

"They took branches of palm trees and went forth to meet him and cried, Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" John 12:13

Word of the Day: *Passover*

A week-long festival that celebrates the story of the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt

The Adventures of Lily & Noah

Jesus was on a Mission — The Last Supper

Lily and Noah were tired on Monday night but perked up with the promise of one of their favorite suppers. Hot dogs, baked beans, and French fries. Noah said it was like getting fast food from the kitchen! After supper, Mama sat down with Lily and Noah at the computer. “Grannie tells me you want to know about donkeys and horses?” she said as she started looking up the animals. “Yes,” said Lily. “Our story today was about Jesus riding a donkey.” So together they looked at pictures of donkeys and horses. Lily could see that the donkeys were smaller than the horses. They were talking about Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, with palm fronds and everything. **Have any of you ridden a donkey before?** Soon, everyone retired to bed – tomorrow would be here soon.

Tuesday morning, Lily got dressed and rolled to the kitchen table. Grannie was already there, with a plate of scrambled eggs and grits ready for Lily. “Where’s Noah?” she asked. Lily replied, “Oh, he’s coming – you know how boys are!” Pretty soon, Noah was sitting down with his breakfast plate. Then the kids headed off to school with Papa behind the wheel. After school, the kids got home for a snack. Soon, the church people were coming down the street to get them. Lily and Noah said bye to Grannie. Lily rolled down her ramp and joined them, ready for the afternoon.

At the site, the kids formed a circle, ready for their story. The church leader said, “Today, we will be talking about a special time called Passover. Does anyone know what that is?” Some of the kids had ideas; most were unsure. “The Jews have celebrated the Passover ever since the time of Moses, when the Lord saved all the Israelite babies. This was when the Lord ‘passed over’ their houses, and they were kept safe.”

And today’s story goes something like this....

Jesus told the disciples to make a place for their meal.

The disciples did as Jesus asked, found a place, and got ready for the Passover. The evening came, and Jesus and the twelve disciples sat down to eat. The disciples were eating quietly because they had a lot on their minds. They were worried. Some people wanted to kill Jesus since he was getting so popular. Jesus could see the disciples were worried. He said to them quietly, "I tell you the truth, one of you here will betray me."

The disciples looked at each other in shock, and some of them asked Jesus, "It isn't me, is it, Lord?"

Jesus replied, "The one who dips his bread into the bowl with me will betray me. I will die, just as it is written, but the man who betrays me will feel sorry forever. Then Judas, with his head down, spoke quietly to Jesus, "It isn't me, is it?"

Jesus answered, "Yes, you are the one."

Judas' head sank even lower; he had hoped the other disciples had not heard what Jesus said. Luckily, they were paying more attention to Jesus breaking apart some bread.

He thanked God for the bread, shared it with the disciples, and said, "Take this and eat it. This is my body, which is given for you." Then He took a full cup, thanked God for it, and said, "This is my blood, which will be poured out for many people so their sins may be forgiven." They all took a sip from the cup.

The meal continued after this; it was a long celebration. The disciples took their time because they enjoyed talking with Jesus and asking Him questions. (Just like when you go out to eat with your parents and their friends, sometimes they seem to talk forever, and you just want to go home...).

After some time, Jesus got up from the table and went to a different part of the room. He took off his everyday clothes and put a large towel around himself to look like a servant. After that, he poured water into a large bowl and began to wash the disciples' feet. Then dried them with the towel that was wrapped around Him.

First of all, Jesus is like a King - but even greater than a king: He's the King of Kings! By washing the disciples' feet, He was doing something that only a servant would do. This would be like if someone famous came to your house and started

to clean your room—even getting down on their hands and knees to clean under your bed! It probably would never happen. When it was Peter's turn to get his feet cleaned, he said to Jesus, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You don't understand what I am doing, but you will later."

"No," said Peter, "you will never wash my feet." He said this because he didn't feel right having Jesus wash his feet. He knew Jesus was very special.

Jesus replied to him, "If I don't wash your feet, you cannot be with me."

"Then, Lord," Peter replied, "don't just wash my feet but my hands and head too." Jesus then explained that He only needed to wash his feet, and that this would make his whole body clean.

When Jesus had finished washing all the disciples' feet, he put on his everyday clothes and returned to the table. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" Jesus asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and that is who I am. And now that I have washed your feet, you can also wash one another's feet." After singing a song at the Passover meal, Jesus and his disciples went to a garden called Gethsemane. It was getting to be

quite late in the evening, so everyone was whispering. Jesus was especially quiet and walked a bit ahead of the rest of the group. He looked sad and upset about something. He stopped and whispered to some of the disciples, "Sit here while I pray."

Then, with Peter, James, and John, he walked just a little bit further and told them, "My heart feels heavy, and I feel very sad. Please stay here and keep watch. I need some company close by." The disciples looked at each other; they had never seen Jesus like this before. Then Jesus walked a bit further by himself. Next to a big tree, he knelt down with his face to the ground and began to talk to God. He prayed, "My Father, I know that I am about to go through some horrible things; I wish I didn't have to, but it doesn't matter what I want, I will do whatever you want. "When He had finished praying, He went back to where the disciples were to find that they had fallen asleep on the ground. Jesus woke them and said to them, "Couldn't you have stayed awake for me for just a little while? You should also pray that you will continue to do what God wants."

The disciples felt bad and tried to keep their eyes open. But when they started praying, they fell asleep. Two more times, Jesus went off to pray the same prayer.

as before, and when he was finished, He came back to his friends -- disappointed to find that they had fallen asleep once again.

The third time, Jesus woke them, saying, "Are you sleeping again? Enough! It is time to go. Here comes the man who is about to give me up to the people who want to hurt me. "While He was still speaking, Judas, one of Jesus' disciples, was coming towards them. He was followed by a large crowd carrying swords and clubs. Judas walked right up to Jesus and kissed Him on the cheek. This was a sign to the chief priests that this was Jesus, and that He was the man that they wanted to arrest. Jesus let them take Him. They took Jesus to a man named Caiaphas, who was the high priest (a man who made many decisions). This is where all the other 'important' people had gathered. They were trying to find a reason to

arrest Jesus, but He had never done anything wrong. People tried to make up things they knew weren't true.

Finally, Caiaphas asked Jesus, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of God?" When Jesus replied that He was the Son of God, Caiaphas couldn't believe it. He even tore off some of his clothes because he thought what Jesus was saying was untrue. These people didn't believe in Jesus, and that's when they decided that they would kill him. Meanwhile, Peter was just outside the building where they had taken Jesus. A servant girl saw Peter and recognized him and asked, "Weren't you with that man named Jesus?" But Peter lied and said, "You don't know what you're talking about." Peter started to walk away, but the girl spoke louder so the other people who were around could hear, "I'm sure you are one of the men that is friends with Jesus." Again, Peter said, "No, I don't know what you're talking about." After a while, more people asked Peter the same thing; Peter started to get upset by this, and he said in a loud voice, "I don't know the man you are talking about. I've never talked to him." Right after Peter said this, a rooster crowed, and Peter remembered something Jesus had said to him: "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." When Peter remembered this, he was very sad. Peter was one of Jesus's closest friends, and now he had lied, saying he didn't even know him. Peter started to cry. How could he have done this to Jesus?

The church leader looked at the kids. "This shows how the disciples were committed to Jesus. They now understood what Jesus offered them. They knew they were all sinners and only Jesus could save them. We need to admit that we, too, are sinners because all humans are. We'll talk more about that tomorrow – just think about it." Lily was thinking. She understands and plans to talk to Mama more about this tonight.

Group Discussion Questions:

Who was present at the Last Supper?

What did Jesus do with the bread at the Last Supper?

What happened in the Garden of Gethsemane?

Who betrayed Jesus?

Bible Verse:

"And He took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to them saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.'" Luke 22:19

Word of the Day: *Parable*

A short simple story in the Bible that teaches a moral or religious lesson

The Adventures of Lily & Noah

Jesus was on a Mission — Jesus' Death and Resurrection

When Lily got home yesterday, she rolled right into the kitchen where Mama and Grannie were preparing supper. Mama looked at her serious face and asked, "Lily, what's the matter?"

Lily told them about the story and said, "The church leader told us to think about how we are all sinners. Then she said we'd talk more tomorrow about it." Mama looked at Lily and told her, "Just a minute. I have something for you to look at." She disappeared from the kitchen and was soon back with a piece of paper. "This is from a Sunday School lesson I taught, and I think it's time for you and Noah to see it. We'll talk more after supper." On the paper, it had A B C. Have any of you heard of "the ABCs of Salvation"? (church teams: this is a good time to introduce the ABCs of Salvation to your kids. Use days 3 and 4 to go over it and answer any questions.)

Grannie made a great meatloaf for supper, complete with mashed potatoes and gravy. The kids enjoyed their supper and had some cookies for dessert. Instead of going to play, they went to the living room with Mama to talk about the ABCs. Lily would have even more questions for the church leader at the club tomorrow.

Wednesday arrived. Lily and Noah were up early and ready for school. What they really wanted to do was get to Street Reach after school.

After school, they had their snack and anxiously awaited the church people to pick them up. It wasn't a long wait. Soon, they were on their way to their site and quickly joined their circle. The church leader asked them if they thought about the ABCs, and everyone raised their hands – yes.

"Well, we will talk more, but before we do that, we have a serious story to hear.

And today's story goes something like this....

Very early in the morning, the soldiers brought Jesus to Pilate, the governor at the time. Pilate asked Jesus, "Are you the king of the Jews?" Jesus replied, "Yes, I am."

This upset the chief priests because they were jealous of him and the Jewish friends He had made.

Pilate listened to the complaints of the people who brought Jesus, but he couldn't find any reason to punish Him. Pilate questioned Jesus, but Jesus didn't stick up for himself (He knew that they wouldn't listen anyway). He had done nothing wrong.

Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people. He said to them, "I have talked to Jesus, and I find no reason to kill Him."

After they heard that, all the people shouted, "We want Jesus! Release Barabbas instead!" Barabbas had been in jail because he had killed someone, and the people wanted him to be free, and Jesus to be punished. (It sounds strange, but it was like peer pressure. The chief priests went around telling people lies about Jesus, so that they would be afraid of Him, and would want to kill Him.)

Pilate didn't like this one bit. He wanted to let Jesus go, so he tried to talk to the people, but they didn't let him. They just kept shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Pilate tried again, yelling, "What has Jesus done wrong? I can punish Him, but then I must let Him go. He doesn't deserve to die!" But the people just shouted louder to crucify Jesus, and Pilate wanted to please the crowd, so he freed Barabbas and sent Jesus to die.

The soldiers led Jesus into the palace, made Him put on an old royal robe, and twisted together a crown of thorns to put on His head. Then they

made fun of Him and said, "Hail, king of the Jews." They didn't understand that He was a king; that's why they made fun of Him.

Next, the soldiers led Jesus toward a hill called Golgotha. They made Him carry the cross on His back, but because Jesus couldn't carry it the whole way, He fell down. The soldiers had whipped His back, and it hurt so much that Jesus couldn't handle the weight of the cross on His shoulders.

A man named Simon happened to be near Jesus when He fell, and the soldiers grabbed him and made him carry the cross the rest of the way. The soldiers

offered Jesus wine mixed with myrrh. (Do you know what myrrh is?) This was supposed to help make it less painful, but Jesus refused to have any.

When they reached the top of the hill, they nailed Jesus to the cross.

There were three crosses: Jesus was in the middle, and a criminal was on His right and on His left. Pilate made a sign to be put on the cross. It read what He was being punished for: Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

The soldiers watched Jesus and made fun of Him; they even divided up His clothes to be even more mean. Some people walked by and shouted, "You saved others, why can't you save yourself?" Jesus could have saved himself, but he chose not to. He wanted to save us instead.

Jesus ignored the people, but He did see His mother, His aunt, and some other women He knew. Jesus felt bad for His mother; she was so sad to see her son die (just like your parents feel when you get hurt).

Then Jesus saw one of His disciples close to His mother, and He said, "Mother, here is your son, and a friend here is your mother." Jesus couldn't say too much, for he was very weak. But He wanted His friend, the disciple, to be like a son to His mother and take care of her. And from that day on, the disciple did.

Later, Jesus could no longer bear the pain, and He said, "It is finished." That is when Jesus bowed His head and went to Heaven.

After Jesus died, a man named Joseph (from a place called Arimathea) placed Jesus in a tomb that had never been used. The tombs they used

then were cut out of rock, almost like a cave; they weren't buried deep in the ground like they are now. Before Joseph left, he and some men rolled a large, heavy stone in front of the tomb.

Mary and Mary Magdalene had waited a day to see Jesus because they couldn't travel on the Sabbath (a day of rest). They made spices and oils as a sign of respect to Jesus and went very early Sunday morning to see Jesus' body.

As they were just about at the tomb, the earth suddenly shook and an angel came down from heaven. He easily rolled away the stone at the entrance of the tomb and sat on top of it.

The women looked at each other and rubbed their eyes, unable to believe what they had seen -- it was very early in the morning, and they were still a little sleepy. The angel was so bright -- almost as bright as lightning! His clothes were as white as snow.

There had been guards watching the tomb so no one would steal Jesus' body. When they saw the angel, they fell to the ground and couldn't move or speak because they were so afraid.

Then the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus, who has died. But He isn't here; He has risen just as He said He would! Come and see for yourself, the tomb is empty."

The women were confused. How could this happen? They were sure Jesus had died, and now He was alive? They looked in the tomb, and the cloths in which Jesus had been wrapped were lying on the ground; the tomb was empty. Then the angel spoke again, "If you want to find Jesus, He's on his way to Galilee."

So, the women hurried away. They were laughing and crying at the same time. They didn't know what to feel; they had been so sad that Jesus was

dead, and now they were so excited that He was alive! They just knew they had to find Jesus and tell the disciples the good news.

As they were running down the path, they turned a corner, and there was Jesus. "Greetings," He said. The ladies fell at His feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my disciples to come to Galilee. That is where they will see me."

The disciples came to Galilee, having heard by this time that Jesus was alive. They were sitting around talking about it when Jesus walked into the room and said, "Peace be with you."

The disciples immediately stopped talking. Even though they had heard He was alive, they were shocked to see Him standing there with them. Jesus said to them, "Why do you look at me like you've just seen a ghost? Why don't you believe what you're seeing? Look at the scars in my hands and feet. It is really me! Touch me and see, I am not a ghost but a real person."

Lily had heard this story and always thought it was sad. But today, the church leader gave them a new thought. "Kids, it was sad that Jesus died on the cross, but we need to remember He died for our sins, and He didn't stay dead. He rose again and ultimately went to heaven. Think about the "B" now. That stands for Believe in Jesus. Does anyone have any questions so far?"

There were many questions from the kids. Noah and Lily shook their heads in understanding since Mama had talked with them last night.

"Tomorrow we will talk about the 'C'," the church leader said.

Group Discussion Questions:

What is Myrrh?

What is a tomb?

Who do you think moved the stone from Jesus's tomb?

Do you know the other part of the story?

Bible Verse:

"For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Word of the Day: *Crucify*

To put to death by nailing or binding the hands and feet to a cross

The Adventures of Lily & Noah

Jesus was on a Mission — Jesus asks Peter

Lily and Noah got home from Street Reach, and they were full of questions, stories, and very hungry! Lily rolled to the kitchen where Grannie was stirring a pot of spaghetti sauce for supper. Mama was not home yet from work. Grannie asked Lily how the club was. "I have so much to talk about," Lily said. "We talked more about the ABCs after our story time. Lily filled Grannie in on the story—the crucifixion of Jesus. "Then we talked about the 'B' in the ABCs," Grannie promised Mama would be ready to talk to them after supper.

Spaghetti and meatballs were always a family favorite. During supper, Daddy talked excitedly about their Saturday trip to the Memphis Botanic Gardens. That's always a fun Saturday! Daddy asked how Street Reach was going this week. Noah piped up to tell him they were having a great time. It was sounding like the trip to the Botanic Garden was a done deal.

Thursday morning dawned kind of dreary. It was cloudy but not raining. The kids were looking forward to day 4 of Street Reach. They got through school and once home had their snack while waiting for the church people to come for them. Soon, they were happily headed for their club site.

All the kids were seated in their story circle, and the church leader started talking. "Well, kids," she said, "We have all enjoyed this week with you all at Street Reach. Ya'll are an awesome bunch of kids!"

We will end our last day together talking about how Jesus spent his last time with his followers before entering heaven. Let's get right into our story.

And today's story goes something like this....

The disciples' mouths were open in amazement because they still didn't know what to think. They were so full of joy, and yet it was so impossible. Jesus understood what they were thinking, so He said, "This is what I told you would happen, that everything must happen that has already been written in the Bible."

Jesus had told the disciples when they had the Last Supper together, they took the bread at communion, and Jesus said, "This is my body which I have given to you..." but the disciples hadn't understood what it really meant.

The story is almost done, but Jesus had one more person to see. His name was Thomas, and he was one of the disciples who wasn't there when Jesus met with them. Thomas had also heard that Jesus was alive, but would not believe until he saw Jesus with his own eyes.

A week later, when Thomas finally saw Jesus, Jesus said to him, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Stop doubting and believe." But Jesus continued, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; but it is more amazing for those who don't see me and believe anyway."

It's really neat, but Jesus was actually talking to us when He said this. If you believe in Him, without seeing Him, He will think you're very special! That is exactly what faith is: believing in God even though you can't see Him. Jesus appeared several times to the disciples after He rose from the dead.

This is a story of one of those times...

Peter said to some of the other disciples, "I think I'm going to go fishing." The disciples who were there said, "Wait up, we'll go with you."

It was getting dark outside, but the disciples thought they would catch more fish at this time of day. They got into the boat and went out onto the water. They were out there for a long time. The time passed, and it was almost morning, but they still hadn't caught any fish.

Jesus knew where His disciples were and went out to meet them. He was standing on shore, but the disciples didn't realize who He was. Jesus called to them, "Friends, haven't you caught any fish?"

"No," they answered.

So, Jesus told them, "Throw your net on the other side of the boat and you will catch some." What happened next was amazing.

The disciples, who had been fishing all night without catching anything, threw the net to the other side, and within minutes it was overflowing with fish.

One of the disciples realized who had been talking to them, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Peter heard this, he jumped out of the boat to go to Jesus. (They weren't that far from shore.)

The other disciples stayed in the boat and worked hard to tow all the fish to shore. When they met Jesus, a fire was lit with some bread lying nearby. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have caught, and we'll have breakfast together."

Peter helped the other disciples get the fish out of the boat. There were so many fish, and they were all so big and heavy that they all needed to lift together to get the fish out of the boat.

Then they all sat together in front of the warm fire, and Jesus took the bread and the fish and gave it to them. This was the third time Jesus had met with the disciples since He rose from the dead.

After breakfast, Jesus asked Peter some important questions. He asked him, "Peter, do you love me more than your parents and all your friends?"

"Yes, Lord," he said, "You know that I love you."

Again, Jesus said, "Peter, do you truly love me, no matter what?"

He answered, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you."

Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?"

Peter's feelings were hurt because Jesus kept asking him, but he replied, "Lord, you know the answer, you know that I love you.

"Then follow me," Jesus said

We have learned that Jesus died on the cross because He loves us, no matter what bad things we do! Now we need to love Jesus no matter what. Here are some questions to think about:

Would you still love/follow Jesus if...

- Your mom or dad got very sick
- You had no friends
- You became blind, or couldn't walk anymore
- Everything was going wrong
- You had to move away from all your friends

Some kids just like you have these problems, and much worse, and they still love Jesus! We need to remember that no matter what, Jesus loves us and will never ever stop loving us! Sometimes things happen that we don't understand, but Jesus knows everything, and He will help us if we ask Him to.

The church leader looked around at the kids. "Let's talk about the 'C' of our ABCs. It stands for "confess that Jesus is your Lord". What do you all think about this story and Jesus related to the disciples?" At this point, the church leader and several other church members sat down among the kids in the story circle to talk and answer questions. All the kids got a handout of the ABCs to take home, and they talked for a while.

Lily and Noah finished their other rotations and went home with the church people. Lily thanked them for a great week. She felt like this was one of the best Street Reach weeks. She rolled up her ramp and into the house, where Grannie was getting supper ready. "Grannie," she said, "This was the best! I can't wait for Street Reach summer! It's gonna be great."

In the meantime, Lily and Noah knew this weekend would be a fun trip to the botanical gardens.

See you all in June!

Group Discussion Questions:

When was Jesus resurrected?

Who saw Him first?

Was He disappointed with the disciples?

Bible Verse:

"He is not here; He has risen, just as He said" Matthew 28:6

Word of the Day: *Resurrection*

The act of returning to life after death
