



Luke 24:13–35

Matthew 28:20b

“Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” **Matthew 28:20b**

BIBLICAL PASSAGE

MEMORY VERSE

Look at your teenager. Now, go get a picture of your teenager as a one-year-old. Do you remember watching your child take his or her first steps? You may have photos or video footage of this momentous event. Do you remember offering your fingers for support and encouragement?

Read Luke 24:13–35. Jesus walked with His disciples for three years. They shared intimate conversations and experiences. When Jesus was crucified, those earliest disciples grieved over the loss of their friend. Amazing events had taken place in Jerusalem during Passover. Jesus of Nazareth had been tried, crucified, and buried. To make things even more unsettling, there were rumors of an empty tomb.

These events set the stage for the conversation on the road to Emmaus. The disciples needed time to think things

through, to share their fears, and to think about what was next for them. But, most of all, they needed Jesus. And they had Jesus. They just didn't recognize Him.

One of the toughest jobs in the world is being a parent. Your teenager loves you. Just as the disciples wanted Jesus' love, your teenager wants your love more than any other person's. And, like the disciples going to Emmaus were unaware that Jesus was there guiding their first steps in a new kind of faith, your child didn't fully understand the guidance you gave as he or she was learning to walk.

Jesus is a real person with whom you and your teen can enjoy a full and meaningful relationship through the Holy Spirit. Encourage your family with this fact every day—not just on Easter.

FAMILY DEVOTION TIME

Connect . . .

First, a family member closes his or her eyes. Then, another family member comes near. The family member with closed eyes tries to guess which member of the family has moved near. The family member with closed eyes shares what the guess was based on—breathing pattern, cologne, or other personal indicator. Next, the family discusses: **How do you know when someone is nearby? Have you ever been unaware of someone else's presence?**

Explore . . .

First, family members take turns reading Luke 24:13–35. Then, a family member reads: **Two of Jesus' followers walked with Him and did not even know Him. Even without recognizing that this was the risen Lord, the two wanted to spend more time with Him. They invited Him to stay with them longer.** Then, the family discusses: **What was the significance of Jesus sharing His identity as laid out in Old Testament Scripture? How did that make the disciples see past Jesus' physical identity?**

Transform . . .

The family discusses: **Do we relate together as a family as if Jesus is walking beside us? How could our family change if we began to acknowledge that Jesus is with us?**

Pray as a family that you will live together knowing that Jesus is with you. Pray that your teenager will claim the personal presence of Jesus by seeking His guidance in making decisions.