

Reflection:

They say that hindsight is 20/20. This means that often we cannot fully understand an event in our lives until it is over. We experience this all the time. During a soccer game we shoot the ball but it is blocked. Later someone tells us that a teammate was completely open and could have made the shot. We realize that we should have passed the ball instead of shooting it. Another example is when we angrily accuse a friend of doing something and don't listen to their explanation. Later we find out that they were telling us the truth and we should have listened. Often this happens because we were not paying full attention. We are not looking or listening well enough.

The two disciples in today's Gospel experienced this. They walked all day talking with a "stranger" about Jesus. It was not until they sat down to dinner and the stranger broke the bread that they realized who it was. Unfortunately, Jesus disappeared leaving them thinking, "How could we not have known it was Him?" They thought of so many things they could have said and questions they could have asked if they had recognized Him earlier in the day and paid closer attention.

One of the most important parts of today's story is what happened to help them finally recognize Jesus. It was when He broke the bread, just as He had done at the Last Supper. At the Last Supper, Jesus told them to always remember Him when they broke bread and shared wine. It is in these actions that we still experience Jesus' presence. Every time we go to Mass the Priest breaks bread (now we use hosts) and shares it along with the wine. If we pay attention at that part of the Mass we can actually feel Jesus with us. The best part is that we can experience that feeling EVERY time we go to Mass. Next time you are in Church try to listen to the prayers and watch the actions of the Priest. Notice how you feel Jesus with you. Notice how that feeling can make you feel loved, safe and happy, then carry that feeling with you when you leave Church. Let it guide you throughout your day and throughout your life.

Discussion Questions:

Why don't you think the disciples recognized Jesus?

What happened to make them realize that it was Him?

How do you think they felt when they realized it was Jesus?

What can you do to help yourself pay attention during Mass so you don't miss Jesus?

How do you recognize Jesus in your life?

Children should be left with two main ideas:

1. Jesus walks with us in our daily journey.
2. Jesus is still present in the scriptures and the breaking bread (communion) at mass.