



Children's Story

Cycle A, Easter 3

Our Eyes Were Opened

Title:	Our Eyes Were Opened
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Church:	Charleswood Mennonite Church, Winnipeg, MB
Text:	Luke 24: 13 - 35
Theme:	Walking with Jesus helps us see a brighter future.

Gathering Activity:

Warmly invite the children to come forward for the children's time, that part of worship where we help children understand and connect with the worship theme and with God, whom we gather to worship each Sunday. Open the topic by giving them a chance to look through some bright-coloured sun glasses.

In today's Scripture reading from Luke 24, two disciples were so sad about Jesus' death on the cross that when the risen Jesus started walking and talking with them, they didn't even recognize him. (*Show them the text in your Bible.*) Listen to what happened to them when the Scripture is read in a little while.

Sometimes being sad can keep us from seeing the good things and the good friends that surround us. That's how it was for Christy until she got a good surprise. Let's prepare our hearts to hear the story by imagining ourselves right onto the lap of Jesus, who is famous for good stories and for inviting children onto his lap.

(Once there is a worshipful silence, begin the following story.)

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Story

Christy was a happy girl. She had lots of friends at her day care, in her kindergarten class, and in her Sunday school class. But one day, her Mom told her that they were going to move to a new city, about 100 km away, so Christy had to say good-bye to all her friends. *(Replace the city reference with the names of your city or town and another one that's not too far away.)* When their moving van took them and all their things away from the only home she had known, Christy cried and cried.

It didn't take long until Christy was going to a new day care, a new kindergarten, and a new Sunday school. There was nothing wrong with any of these, but Christy was sad, and missed her old home and her old friends.

Her parent wanted Christy to play in the playground across the street from their new home, but Christy wouldn't go play in it. She didn't have her old friends to play with and besides, the children who were playing there were strangers.

Christy's parents loved her very much and were worried about her sadness. They wondered what they could do. Finally, they decided to plan a surprise party for her in that playground. Whom should they invite? *(Recruit suggestions from the children.)* Yes, they decided to invite some of her old friends, and some children from her new day care, kindergarten and Sunday school class.

When the party guests arrived at the playground, Christy was watching her favourite TV show. Her dad called to her, "Christy, look what's happening across the street!" Christy didn't want to, but her dad just scooped her up and took her to the window to look. "Look what's happening at the playground, Christy!" he said. "Hmm," she answered. "I think some kids are having a party. Let me watch TV."

Christy didn't want to go, but her dad took her out and across the street. He took her right into the food line-up. Christy smelled yummy grilled

cheese sandwiches, which were her favourite food, and cheered up a little. But when she looked into the face of the person giving her the sandwich, she recognized the mother of her best friend back home. Christy opened her eyes wide and burst into a great big smile. "Look around some more," said her dad. She did, and as she did she saw her old friends, and they were playing with children from her new home.

Christy jumped out of her dad's arms and ran to hug and play with them. They played and played, and as it got dark and the party ended, Christy had a bunch of new friends. They helped her wave good-bye to her old friends as they drove off back to her old home. Christy was sad to see them go, but then she looked at her new friends, and was happy, very happy.

Wondering questions:

- I wonder what it is like to move away from your old home.
- I wonder how Christy's old friends felt as they showed up for the party.
- I wonder how Christy felt when her old friends helped her make new friends.
- I wonder how Jesus felt when Christy finally had new friends.

Prayer

Thank you Jesus, for understanding us when we are sad. Thank you for people like Christy's parents and friends who help us see the sunshine of friendship again. Amen.