

Lesson 4 / March 23, 2008

# The Fuzzy Picture

for use as

STEP 1 

## Lesson 4 Focus:

Surprise! He is Risen!

## Lesson 4 Bible Basis:

Luke 24:1-12

**Students will learn that God often slowly reveals His plans for our lives; and that we can choose to trust Him even when we don't understand what He is doing.**

### Materials:

- Overhead projector
- Transparency of a simple line drawing
- 11x17 copy paper for each student
- 1 pencil for each student
- Printout of the Jesus Optical Illusion picture on Page 3 (optional)

**B**efore class, you'll need to find a simple line drawing by using your Internet browser and visiting [www.office.microsoft.com](http://www.office.microsoft.com). Click on the "Clip Art" tab at the top of the page. At the bottom of the page, the categories for clip art are listed. Choose a category and browse the pictures. Look for a simple line drawing, not a photo. Next, copy and paste your picture into a Microsoft Word document. Next, enlarge your clip art to fill an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper. Then either print your line drawing on regular copy paper or transparency film. (If you print on copy paper, you'll need to trace it onto transparency yourself, or have your line drawing copied onto transparency film at a copy shop.)

### Optional:

*If you do not have an overhead projector, you can print out the optical illusion image from page three. Ask students to try to guess what it is. Don't give them any clues, including showing them which way to orient the picture. If they don't get it after a few moments, show them how to orient the page (with the Real Life Downloaded logo on the bottom right). If they still don't get it, start giving them hints or pointing out the different features until someone is able to see that it is a picture of Jesus. Then continue with the discussion questions below.*

Before your students arrive in class, place your transparency upside down on the overhead projector. Then, adjust the focus so it's as blurry as possible without making it disappear. Finally, cover it up with a piece of copy paper so your students cannot see it when they arrive.

After greeting your students, tell them that you have a surprise for them that you'd like to share. Next, give each one an 11 x 17 piece of paper and a pencil. Then, remove the copy paper from the projector that is hiding the line drawing. At the same time say, **This is the surprise, but you can't tell what it is yet. But**

## Lesson 4 Memory Verse

Why do you look for  
the living among the  
dead? He is not here;  
he has risen!

—Luke 24:5b-6a

you will be able to tell what it is little by little as I reveal it to you. Your job is to draw what you see. If the lines are light, draw them light. If they are fat; draw them fat. But only draw what you see. Ready? Go.

Allow the students to draw for two to three minutes, then adjust the overhead to make the picture a little clearer. Make sure you don't adjust it all the way.

Complete this step several times, adjusting the picture a little at a time, then having the students draw, until the picture is in focus and the students' drawings are complete.

After each adjustment of the projector, ask:

▶ **What do you think it is?**

The answers will vary. Have fun making a game out of guessing.

After everyone can obviously see what the picture is and the drawings are complete, say, **This is the way it can be when God is doing something in our lives. Sometimes we don't understand His plan, until after He has revealed the entire "picture" to us. Then, it's a surprise, just like it was for the disciples when Jesus was raised from the dead.**

▶ **Were you frustrated because you couldn't see the picture clearly?**

▶ **How did you feel when you saw the picture in focus?**

▶ **If we are ever frustrated when we don't understand God's plan—or surprises—for our lives, what should our response be?**

Encourage the students to trust God, even when they can't see the entire "picture" of what He is doing. **Jesus' apostles couldn't initially see the big picture behind Jesus' death, but they soon learned that God had a plan the whole way.**

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your *Middle School Teacher's Guide*; Step 4 appears below.)



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## Lesson 4 Focus:

Surprise! He is Risen!





## Lesson 4 Bible Basis:

Luke 24:1-12

### Materials:

- Small, washed river rocks that will fit in your palm. (If you don't have river rocks, you can use small, rubber balls.)
- Several fine-point, permanent markers

**T**o begin, tell your students that everyone has difficulty at times trusting God when they don't understand His plans—and surprises—for their lives.

-  Again, how did the disciples feel when Jesus was crucified?
-  Do you think that it would have been easier for them if they believed God was going to do something good, even though everything looked very bad after Jesus died?
-  Name a time when you didn't understand God's plans and became sad, frustrated, angry, or discouraged.
-  How do you think people's lives would be different if everyone learned to wait on God and trust Him until He revealed His purposes?

Give each student a rock (or rubber ball) and a permanent marker and ask them to write a key word or short phrase on their rock to help them remember to choose to trust God when they don't understand what He is doing in their lives. If they cannot think of anything to write, suggest words like "trust," or "hope" or a phrase like "God is good." Make sure to give the marker time to dry before you let students put them in their pockets.

Next say, I'd like you to carry this rock (or ball) in your pocket this week to remind you to trust God while you are waiting for Him to reveal His plans. I'd also like you to share with an adult or a close friend how carrying your rock (or ball) helps you in your relationship with God.

Close in prayer.

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