

Pentecost Escape Room

A series of challenges and puzzles for youth groups exploring the disciples' perspective of the events after the resurrection, from the road to Emmaus to Pentecost.

In an escape room, a group works together to complete a series of challenges to receive further clues, which will ultimately allow them to get a code to unlock the door and 'escape the room'.

Present this as a timed challenge (escape in one hour or less) if you feel the young people would deal well with the pressure. The challenges work best when taken on as a team (at least three young people), but it can be hard for more than 10 to meaningfully work together. For a much larger group, have smaller teams 'race' against each other (this will require another room and duplicate resources).



ESCAPE ROOM

Essential planning

You will need a youth leader to be in costume acting as one of Jesus' early disciples. They will be in the escape room with the young people, facilitating and setting the scene. This leader should follow the **Leader's script** which includes some lines to say at the start of each stage, instructions on how to direct the young people, and additional hints and help to give the group for each challenge if they are stuck or taking too long. The goal is for the young people to problem-solve and grapple with the challenges themselves, but sometimes they will need a nudge in the right direction.

There are three stages and eight challenges in total.

Each stage focuses on a Bible passage. It may be that some of your young people know their Bible so well that they already know the answers. If so, encourage them to still try and work through the clues to confirm their response. There will be a Bible available in the room, but reading it will provide the answers straight away, so it's best if the young people work through the challenges and then read the passage after they have completed each stage, as instructed, to confirm their answers.

Stage 1 explores the story on the road to Emmaus and consists of four challenges that can be done sequentially or simultaneously.

Stage 2 explores Jesus appearing to the disciples in the upper room, when they were waiting for the Holy Spirit. There are two sequential challenges.

Stage 3 explores the Holy Spirit coming at Pentecost and the disciples sharing the good news with people from many nations. It involves two sequential challenges.

After completing **Stage 3**, the group escapes from the room, just like the disciples leaving the upper room at Pentecost, filled with the Holy Spirit and ready to share the good news about Jesus.

You will need to print out and place all of the challenges for each stage in a 'stage envelope'. The envelope for **Stage 1** is left on the table to be found when the group enters the room. The envelopes for **Stages 2** and **3** should be kept by the youth leader and given out upon completion of the previous stage.

What to print out and gather

- Print out the 5 Challenge sheets, map and three Congratulations certificates.
- Create the three stage envelopes with the Challenge sheets inside:

Stage 1 – Challenges 1-4

Stage 2 – Challenges 5-6

Stage 3 – Challenges 7-8

- Gather props and resources (see **You will need**).
- Set up your room and hide clues (see **Set up your room**).
- We have provided the answers to each challenge in an Answers sheet at the very end of this resource, to print out.
- We have provided scripts to be used by the youth leader. Print out these pages and make sure the leader has read them beforehand. Keep the scripts hidden from your group.

Stage 1



Challenge 1

Two of the disciples have just returned from a trip, claiming that Jesus is alive and that they met him on the road. We want to record the place where Jesus appeared, but the followers were so excited that they have forgotten the name of the village. We have a scaled map and some details of their journey. Use the information to work out how far they could have walked (there and back), which direction, and then which villages fit the details.

- They left Jerusalem around 3:00pm today.
- They met a stranger on the road. They were talking about all the things that had happened to them, so they probably walked at a speed of about 2 miles an hour. The stranger explained how Jesus fulfilled all the Jewish scriptures about the Messiah.
- They stopped at the village and persuaded the stranger to stay and eat with them. This meal would have taken about an hour. During the meal, when the stranger broke the bread, they realised it was Jesus.
- Once they realised it was Jesus, they hurried straight back here, likely walking around 3-3.5 miles an hour.
- There were a couple of small delays throughout this venture.
- They've just arrived back here in Jerusalem at 10:00pm this evening.
- So, which village did they go to and return in that time?

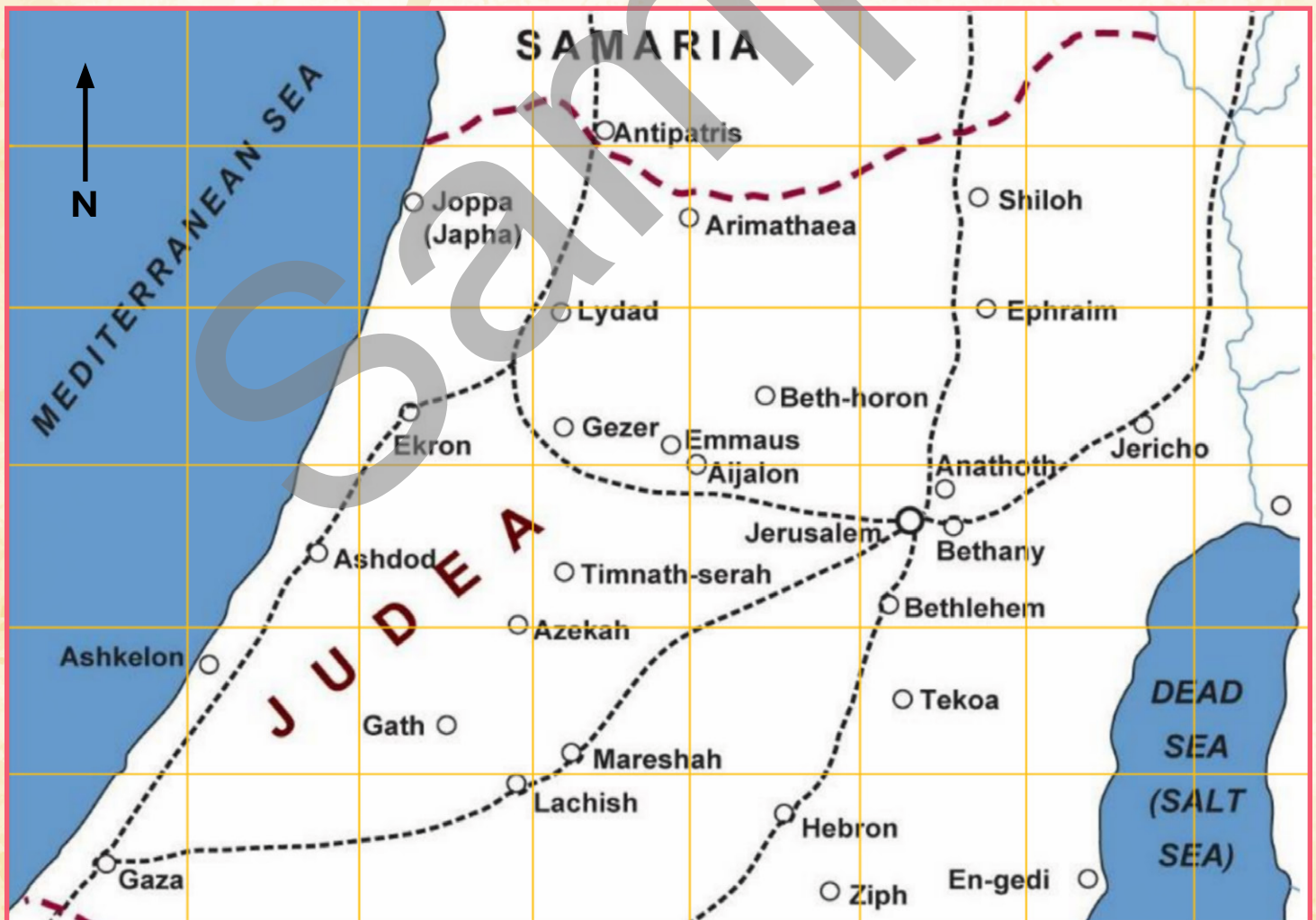
Use the map below of Judea, to consider distances that could have been covered in the time frame.

We need to complete the statement...

The two travellers met Jesus while travelling to _____!

Map of Judea

Scale: |-----| = 5 miles



Stage 2



Congratulations...

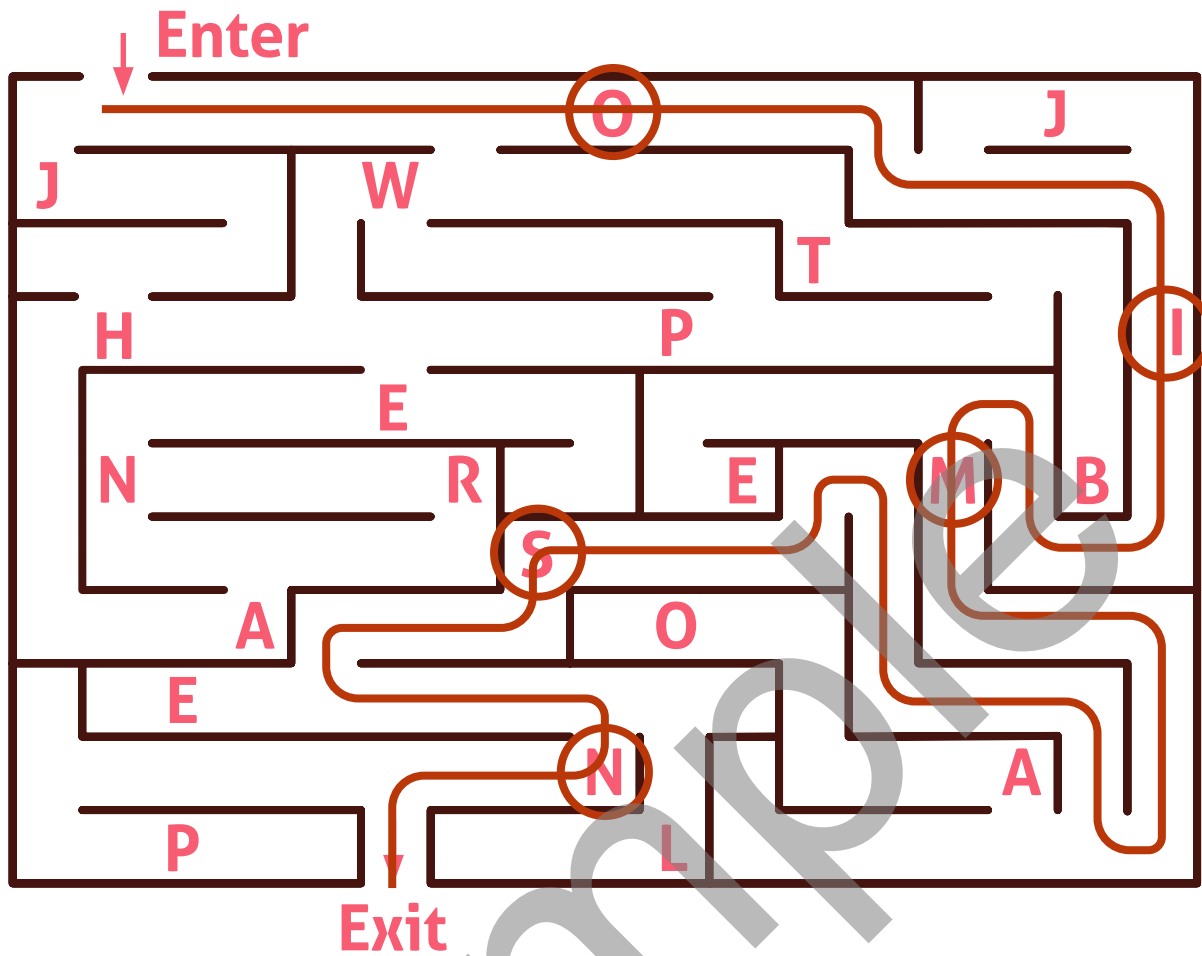
You have completed **Stage 2** and successfully discovered that we disciples all met with Jesus again and were made ready to receive the Holy Spirit.

Read aloud the story in **John 20:19-29** to hear the story you have just explored.

We can also read in **Luke 24:49** that the disciples must wait again for the Holy Spirit, God's special helper sending 'power from above', to help face the challenges outside of this room.

Challenge 4

Which of the disciples had already seen Jesus?



When the travellers arrived, we were celebrating that Jesus had risen from the grave and had already met SIMON! He was also known as Peter – The Rock!

Stage 2

Challenge 5

1. Philip
2. Thomas
3. Simon (Peter)
4. Andrew
5. James & John
6. Bartholomew
7. James (son of Alphaeus)
8. Judas
9. Simon the Zealot
10. Matthew