Background:

One of the most important periods of the church calendar, but sometimes the least celebrated, is the period of 40 days after Jesus rose from the dead.

The Gospel writers and the writer of the Book of Acts tell us that Jesus walked and talked and was seen, in his restored body, by the disciples.

Sometimes, when Jesus appeared to his followers, they did not immediately recognise him, until they heard his voice or until he called them by their name.

For example, on the third day (Easter Sunday) when Mary Magdalen encountered Jesus outside his tomb, she thought Jesus was a gardener.

That same evening, two of Jesus’ followers who were trudging sadly along the road from Jerusalem towards the village of Emmaus, were joined by a stranger. It was Jesus but they, too failed to recognise him.

Bible story:

One of the many followers of Jesus was called Cleopas. The other traveller on the road to Emmaus may have been his wife, a relation or a friend. When Jesus asked them why they were so sad, they were shocked that the stranger had not heard the news about Jesus’ crucifixion and started to tell him what had happened. Jesus listened carefully and then began to share some scriptures with the...
two travellers. After several miles talking together, they all arrived at Emmaus. The two followers had so enjoyed speaking with the stranger, they invited him to join them for a meal and to stay overnight.

It was only in the middle of supper that they suddenly realized that the stranger was indeed Jesus, risen from the dead and fully alive. They realized who he was when he broke the bread and passed them the wine. Although Jesus, just as suddenly, disappeared, the two followers knew that their sadness had changed to joy. Despite the dark and danger outside, they set off back to Jerusalem, to tell their friends that they, too, had seen the risen Lord. Jesus was, and is, still alive!


‘Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognising him.

17 He asked them, ‘What are you discussing together as you walk along?’ .........”

Things to do at home - a few ideas:

• Cut out, colour and make the Road to Emmaus Pop Up scene.

• Imagine and act out, write down, or draw the various emotions Cleopas and his companion might have been feeling as the story unfolds.

• Imagine the conversation between the two friends as they walked back to Jerusalem and what they would have said to the other followers of Jesus when they met them.