

## WALKING WITH JESUS: SMALL GROUP LESSON

April 15th: Walking to Emmaus — Emmaus Road (Mark 16:12-13, Luke 24:13-35)

Thesis:

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35 (NLT): The Walk to Emmaus

13 That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. 16 But God kept them from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?"

They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. 18 Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."

19 "What things?" Jesus asked.

"The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. 20 But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. 21 We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

22 "Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. 23 They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! 24 Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said."

25 Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. 26 Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" 27 Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

28 By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, 29 but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. 30 As they sat down to eat, [b] he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. 31 Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

32 They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" 33 And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them

**Icebreaker:** Do you like to go walking with friends? What are some things you like to discuss on your walks?

**Activity:**

**Celebrity 20 Questions:**

Have individuals think of someone relatively famous. The rest of the group must ask yes or no questions to try and discover who the person is.

*For example: Person: Harry Potter, Question: Is your person a female? (no), is He a real person? (no). Etc...*

Once the person is revealed, ask

- If you were to go for a walk with this person, what would you talk about?
- What questions would you ask?
- What type of stories would you want to hear?

### **Read Luke 24:13-21**

- Why were these men on the road to Emmaus? What were they discussing?
- What happened that crushed their hopes and expectations

### **Read verses 22-24**

- Why did they not believe the story of the resurrection?
- What keeps people today from believing the resurrection?

#### ***Review the document "Thoughts on the Resurrection"***

- Which theory seems the most plausible (seeming reasonable or probable)? Is that theory more or less plausible than Jesus actually rising from the dead? Why or why not?
- Why is it difficult to disprove the resurrection?
- Why is the resurrection critical to the Christian faith? (Where would we be without it?)

### **Read verses 25-33**

- Why did these men not recognize Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus kept his identity hidden from them while they walked?
- What does Jesus do while he walks with these two men?
- Why do you think Jesus finally reveals who he is, then disappears?
- What is their reaction and response to recognizing Jesus?

### **Our Current Context:**

- How might Jesus be walking with people today?
- How might people not recognize Jesus today?
- What prevents people from recognizing and accepting Jesus?
- In what different ways does Jesus reveal himself to people?

**Video:** Recognizing Him by Faith Jongewaard. This was from Pastor Faith's sermon last April, when she performed a monologue based on one of these men's experience on the Emmaus road.

The full sermon is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y68o1HHGrM>

The clips below are available on the lesson page of the website.

#### ***Recognizing Him part 1***

Watch Pastor Faith's presentation of this story.

- What insights into the story does this provide?
- How do you think this interaction changed these men's life?

#### **Video 2: *Recognizing Him part 2***

**Watch the second part of Pastor Faith's presentation of this story.**

- According to the video, how did this experience change the man?
- Why do you think this experience with Jesus caused him to live life differently?
- What does this say about how Jesus changes people?
- What does it say about how Jesus can change you?

**Heart Burn**

**"Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" (vs 32)**

**Stories of Jesus**

- What story of Jesus makes your "heart burn" with hope and excitement?
- What about this story makes your "heart burn"?
- How does this story inspire you to grow in your faith and share Jesus with others?
- **Challenge:** Share this story with a friend and talk about why it is important to you.

**Passionate Life**

- Share a time when your "heart burned" in excitement for Jesus?
- How did that experience shape your faith then and now?
- Does your heart burn for Jesus like it use to? Why or why not?
- What causes the fire in our hearts to settle down?

**Songs:** Here are 2 songs that are focused on our hearts burning for God, and asking God to restore that passion for him that may have faded.

Have the group listen (provide lyric sheets if possible)

**Toby Mac: Burn us up (Youth Friendly)**

- Concert Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J-F6jp8fWmY>
- Song Lyric Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2qwbcwSJFY>
- Lyrics: <https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/tobymac/burnforyou.html>

**Shane and Shane: Yearn (Adult Friendly)**

- Music Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1b2M93tjzFO>
- Song Lyric Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTjuwuWPgSo>
- Lyrics: <https://genius.com/Shane-and-shane-yearn-lyrics>

**Prayer:** Ask God to ignite our hearts (individually, as a small group, and our church), and change our lives, through the power of His resurrection.

Provide individuals a chance to pray on their own, or with partners.

## THOUGHTS ON THE RESURRECTION

From the *Complete New Testament Resource for Youth Workers, Volume 2*

### Many have tried to disprove the resurrection

*Here are some failed theories:*

- The swoon theory—Jesus didn't die but just went unconscious and then later revived.
- The stolen body theory—Jesus' disciples stole his body and claimed he was alive.
- The moved body theory—The Jews moved the body.
- The hallucination theory—All of his post-resurrection sightings were hallucinations, not real.
- The wrong tomb theory—The women and everyone else went to the wrong tomb.

### They all have failed

*People who set out to disprove the resurrection can't do it for a few reasons:*

- The Resurrection event is well-documented in the four Gospels, by Paul, in the early church, in the public record and common knowledge of the time.
- The Resurrection was calmly predicted in advance.
- Many people saw Jesus after he arose, including these two men on the road to Emmaus. A number of them are named specifically, including, for example, Cleopas. They were sad but certainly not hallucinating.
- More than 2,000 years later, there is no accepted disproof.
- The changed lives of the people who were there shows the validity of what they say happened. All but one of the disciples died a violent, martyr's death, and none of them changed their story about the risen Christ.

### It's the center

The Resurrection is the center of Christianity. Why? Because it validates Christ's claims; it validates Old Testament claims; it validates our confidence in God and his Word. If the Resurrection didn't happen, then our faith falls apart. Paul said, "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith" (1 Corinthians 15:14).

We should be shocked and not shocked at the resurrection. Seeing God defy death in the most beautiful way is stunning. But then again, should we ever be surprised at God's power?

The in-the-flesh resurrection and visual confirmation that Luke records is the foundation and center of our faith. Without resurrection we have no hope. (Paul speaks to this in Romans 1:4 and 1 Corinthians 15:14-20.)

In the first evangelistic sermon ever, Peter connects the dots of the Old Testament prophecy to the resurrection of Jesus (Acts 2:22-36).

### It sets apart

The Resurrection sets Jesus apart from all other major religious leaders and the Christian faith from all other religions and sects. If Jesus is truly risen, then he has the greatest credibility to speak the truth about life, death, and eternal life. His resurrection makes all of his words worth knowing, studying, and obeying.