

WEEK SIX
JESUS CONNECTION
ROAD TO EMMAUS

OPENING QUESTIONS: Have you ever met someone famous, without realizing it?

VIDEO CLIPS: October Sky.

High School Science fair winner meets Werner Von Braun, father of modern rocketry, and does not realize it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IjMTiKtwyKk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzOH54GemVo>

DISCUSS:

- How do you think Homer felt when he realized he met his idol Dr. Von Braun?
- How would the scene play out differently if he knew he was talking to Von Braun?
- Why does his dad use that to belittle his son?
- What do you think of Homer's response to his dad?

THE ROAD TO EMMAUS:

SETTING THE STORY: It is the first Easter Sunday, and two of Jesus' followers, not the 12 disciples but men who were close, decided to leave Jerusalem and return home. They were feeling distraught and discouraged because of the events around Jesus' death.

READ LUKE 24:13-32

13 Now that same day [Easter Sunday] two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 Together they were discussing everything that had taken place. 15 And while they were discussing and arguing, Jesus himself came near and began to walk along with them. 16 But they were prevented from recognizing him. 17 Then he asked them, "What is this dispute that you're having with each other as you are walking?" And they stopped walking and looked discouraged.

18 The one named Cleopas answered him, "Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that happened there in these days?"

19 "What things?" he asked them.

So they said to him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet powerful in action and speech before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. 21 But we were hoping that he was the one who was about to redeem Israel. Besides all this, it's the third day since these things happened. 22 Moreover, some women from our group astounded us. They arrived early at the tomb, 23 and when they didn't find his body, they came and reported that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they didn't see him."

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Wasn't it necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and enter into his glory?" 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted for them the things concerning himself in all the Scriptures.

28 They came near the village where they were going, and he gave the impression that he was going farther. 29 But they urged him, "Stay with us, because it's almost evening, and now the day is almost over." So, he went in to stay with them.

30 It was as he reclined at the table with them that he took the bread, blessed, and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts burning within us while he was talking with us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?" 33 That very hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem.

VIDEO: BBC's The Passion – Road to Emmaus <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmmTWQn95xQ>

Watch the video to provide more insight into this story.

DISCUSS:

- Why were these men feeling discouraged and arguing with each other?
- What did they tell the mysterious man about Jesus of Nazareth?
- What was their hope for Jesus (see verse 21) and why did they feel disappointed in their hope?
- How did Jesus help them see that there was no reason for disappointment?
- Jesus told them all about God's marvelous plan for redemption, pointing out how He fulfilled what was spoken by the Old Testament prophets. Later the men said, "Weren't our hearts burning within us while he was talking with us on the road and explaining the Scriptures to us?" How might Jesus' explanation of God's plan help them reinvigorate their hope in the Messiah?
- Why do you think Jesus needed to keep his identity a secret while talking to these men? How might that have helped them reinvigorate their hope in the Messiah?
- What do these men do with their reinvigorated hope?

READ: PSALM 130: 7-8

Israel, put your hope in the Lord. For there is faithful love with the Lord, and with him is redemption in abundance. 8 And he will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

DISCUSS:

- How does Jesus offer faithful love?
- How does he offer redemption in abundance?
- Why is it important to know that Jesus redeems us from ALL our iniquities?
- How does Jesus' faithful love and redemption of iniquities allow us to put our hope in the Lord?

READ: Psalm 131:3

Israel, put your hope in the Lord, now and forever.

DISCUSS:

- How does knowing the story of the resurrected Jesus enhance our hope in the Lord?
- How does hope in Jesus help up now? How does hope in Jesus help up tomorrow? How does hope in Jesus help us forever?

SAY: Because of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ we have hope fulfilled. It is because of his faithful love that we can find redemption in abundance. It is because of his sacrifice on the cross and his glorious resurrection that we are redeemed from all our iniquities. When we put our hope in Jesus *now*, we find salvation (justification). When we put hope in him *always*, we are being transformed (sanctification).

RETURN:

Go back to the main lesson. Wrap up with the *CLOSING TIME* prayer or choose an additional option in *PATHS FOR THE JOURNEY*