

Sermon Discussion Guide, Luke 24:28-42

Apr 23



WALKING with Christ

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15 min)

- Anything to share since you last met last week? Joys or concerns? (can note them below for prayer later). Experiences in seeking to apply last week's message on *Dealing with Doubt*, John 20:24-29?
- Opener Question: How do you normally deal with disappointment? A- talk with a friend, B- just bear with the sadness until it passes, C- go shopping, D- eat comfort food, E- talk with God about it or F- something else?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture, Luke 24:13-35. Know that it is ok to skip some questions below in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

¹³ 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 recognizing him. ¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said,

but they did not see Jesus." ²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" ³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- In the conversation with Jesus, before they recognized him, Cleopas and the other traveler had faces that were downcast (vs 17) and one of them said in vs 21 “But we had hoped that he was the one who was to redeem Israel.” Why do you think Jesus did not reveal who he was early on at this time?
- Since they already knew of the resurrection (vs 22-24), why do you think were they not more hopeful at this time?
- How is it odd that they were “telling Jesus about Jesus?” Why was this conversation ironic or humorous?
- Have you ever sensed Jesus entering into conversations you’ve had with other people about Him? What was that experience like? How does that apply to small group ministry?
- What do verses 25-27 and 32 reveal about Jesus regard for and use of the scriptures?
- Since the disciples had been told by Jesus several times beforehand about his upcoming death (Luke 9:22), why is it they don’t seem to get it until now (vs 25-27, 32)?
- How is it that they finally come to recognize Christ (vs 28-31)? What can we learn from Cleopas’s and Mary’s response when they “got it?”

Other Related Readings (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read aloud 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
- What are the essential aspects of the gospel that the apostle Paul claims here is of “first importance?”
- Why are the various appearances of Christ emphasized here through repetition?
- Why would Paul refer to himself as one abnormally born in verse 8? What is the normal way?

Personalizing and Applying The Message (10 min)

- As you reflect upon the sermon and the scripture readings above, what are points of encouragement or challenge for you personally?
- How does knowing that Jesus is closer than you think and with you before you know change how you might approach your days this week?
- Is there a time you could share about when Christ was with you but you did not perceive it or feel His presence with you at the time?
- Why do we need to be told something more than once before we “get it” sometimes?
- What patterns or rhythms of a devotional life of prayer and scripture reading seem to work the best for you remaining “awakened” to the presence and hope of Christ?
- What keeps us from recognizing Christ’s presence among us?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- The gradual dawning of recognition in Mary and Cleopas encourages us to not give up in talking with skeptics about Christ when at first they don’t seem to get it. In what ways, places or with what people shall we “go and tell” this week?
- What would be your story or version of Christ’s story that you would share with others if the circumstances were right?
- A volunteer may lead the group in prayer about the joys or concerns shared earlier in the meeting and others as well.