

# JESUS

through the eyes of...

## Week of April 9 – The Emmaus Walk<sup>1</sup>

### **Overview:**

Over the last several weeks we've looked at Jesus through the eyes of Luke, some unlikely characters who met him, and some enemies of Jesus he faced while on earth. Our view of Jesus is shaped by our own perspective, our church history, and our study of scripture. We pray that as you see Jesus in fresh ways, you are drawn to follow Jesus more closely and become more like him every day.<sup>2</sup>

### **Group Objectives:**

***Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purpose of community groups.***

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members.
- Commit to learning and sharing the gospel message with one other person this week.

### **DNA statement(s) tie-in:**

- *We encounter the Father daily* - God the Father speaks to us through the Bible and we commune with him through prayer.
- *We do life together* – "Community" is our middle name. Every person of every generation is wanted, needed, and known. And there's always room for one more.

### **Conversation Starters:**

- Tell us about your favorite road trip and what made it so great.

### **Listening to God**

- Where did you see God at work last week? How were you able to join him?

### **Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion**

- ***Read Luke 24:13-35***
  - During this walk along the road, the friends (or perhaps a husband and wife) are talking together about "all that has happened." When we experience God in various ways, how can discussing those experiences with others help us in our spiritual formation?
  - Why do you think Jesus doesn't reveal himself immediately, but rather asks for their reflection on the past events?
  - Verse 21 gives a whisper of doubt ("we **had** hoped..." past tense) – How does Jesus' response to these friends give **you** hope even during times of doubt?
  - Why do you think they finally recognized Jesus during the meal?

<sup>1</sup> This week's lesson was written by Dawn Gentry.

<sup>2</sup> For a monthly reading and devotional guide to accompany this series in Luke, go to [cccomaha.info](http://cccomaha.info).

- **Read Luke 24:36-49**

- These are related events happening in proximity, almost as if Jesus followed them (secretly?) all the way back to Jerusalem.
  - What stands out to you from this part of the story?
  - Why do you think they still had doubt? (see verse 41)
  - How did Jesus eating a piece of fish help them believe?
- How does Jesus still “open our minds to understand the scriptures”? (*hint*: verse 49)

*If you have time...*

- **Read (any or all) Gen 3:15; Deut 18:15; Psalm 22:1-8; Psalm 69:7-9, 21; Psalm 72:1-2, 12-14; Psalm 118:21-23; Isa 7:14; Micah 7:18-20.**

- In each of these texts, what is the prophecy foretold about Jesus?
- Why does knowing these prophecies impact and influence our “witness”?

### **Leaning into Obedience:**

- Review verses 46-47. (See also 1 Corinthians 15:3-5).
  - What are the primary “points” of the gospel message?
  - With whom could you share this message this week?
- When have you experienced times of doubt? How did you persevere in faith?
  - This might be a great place to discuss how various stages of faith (especially “the wall”) show up at different times in our lives. See the *Discipleship Matters* brochure (available at the connect area) or online at [www.cccomaha.org/discipleship](http://www.cccomaha.org/discipleship) for more information about stages of faith, or talk to one of our Adult Ministry team members.
- What are some ways to invite Jesus to “open our minds to understand the scripture”?
  - What is your best next step to grow in your own Biblical literacy?
- How do you sense God calling you to respond to this passage?
  - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?
- How can the group encourage you this week as you respond?

### **Prayer Prompts:**

- Invite members of the group to share personal prayer requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following questions.  
*Who in my life can “walk along the road” with me while discussing matters of faith?*
- Option: Pray this prayer over your group, adapted from the conversations in Luke 24.  
*Jesus, we give you praise for your life on earth, your death of sacrifice, and your resurrection from the grave. Thank you for staying with us and being our peace. Help us to not be foolish or slow to believe your promises.*  
*Open our eyes to see who you really are.*  
*Open our hands to serve as those who follow you.*  
*Open our minds to understand your will through scripture.*  
*And open our hearts to love others enough to share the gospel with them.*  
*Amen.*