

situations. It might be that our prayer changes over time, because God uses the journey to shape us.

Jesus used his time walking with the disciples to reveal truth to them from the scripture. They didn't have the eyes to see God's story until Jesus revealed it to them.

Luke 24:26-27 NLT - 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.

Jesus said it was "clearly predicted" that he would suffer. Through His Holy Spirit God is able to make scripture come to life. How do you approach reading the bible so that you best hear from God?

To find truth we must seek "the truth", not seek to justify our own version of truth. When at last Jesus broke bread, the disciples' eyes were open and they recognized Jesus for who he is- the resurrected one, their hope in victory over sin and death.

WRAP-UP

After Jesus was crucified many lost hope. Their expectations had been dashed and their faith shattered. But Jesus was able to restore hope when he was raised from the dead. On his walk alongside the two disciples on their way to Emmaus, he revealed the truth from the scriptures and when they finally broke bread together, their eyes were open to the fact that Jesus is our living hope and our victory over sin and death.

Memory Verse

Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.
- Luke 24:27 NLT

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members' needs: (see back for more space)

Challenge- When you read the Bible this week, ask God to reveal truth to you that you've never recognized before.

"Road to Emmaus"

Easter 2019

INTRODUCTION

In Luke's Gospel we read of an encounter between Jesus and two of his followers. It is the third day after the crucifixion and the disciples had lost hope after witnessing Christ's death. During their walk the Lord opened their eyes to the truth of what God had revealed about him in the scriptures and the disciples' perspective changed from gloom and despair to one of joy and hope. Begin this study by reading through the account in Luke 24:13-34.

Ice Breaker (Optional—8 min)

Where is your favorite place to take a walk?

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. Expectations Crushed

What a devastating scene it must have been. Jesus' followers watched his agony and death as their own dreams died along with him. Jesus had raised their hopes that all of their troubles were going to be taken care of by the Messiah who had finally come.

If they were familiar with Zechariah 3 and Isaiah 63 what do you think they were expecting Jesus to do when he came to Jerusalem?

Zephaniah 3:19 NLT - 19 And I will deal severely with all who have oppressed you. I will save the weak and helpless ones; I will bring together those who were chased away. I will give glory and fame to my former exiles, wherever they have been mocked and shamed.

Isaiah 63:1-4 NLT - 1 Who is this who comes from Edom, from the city of Bozrah, with his clothing stained red? Who is this in royal robes, marching in his great strength? "It is I, the LORD, announcing your salvation! It is I, the LORD, who has the power to save!" 2 Why are your clothes so red, as if you have been treading out grapes? 3 "I have been treading the winepress alone; no one was there to help me. In my anger I have trampled my enemies as if they were grapes. In my fury I have trampled my foes. Their blood has stained my clothes. 4 For the time has come for me to avenge my people, to ransom them from their oppressors.

The Old Testament contained many prophecies about a victorious savior who would bring freedom to his people. When Jesus arrived on the scene, performing miracles, Rome was viewed as the greatest threat. But that is not the greatest threat from God's perspective.

What did the Psalmist indicate that the Lord would redeem them from in Psalm 130? How did Titus explain the kind of freedom Jesus brought?

Psalm 130:8 NLT - 8 He himself will redeem Israel from every kind of sin.

Titus 2:14 NLT - 14 He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

Many of us still are overwhelmed by what appears to be our greatest threat; health, relationships, money.

Have you experienced a time when God didn't rescue you from what you found your greatest problem? How did that affect you?

2. From Physical Eyes to Eyes of Faith

Most of us tend to rely on our sight. We might say "seeing is believing." But compared to God, we have a limited very perspective. In Luke 24:19-21 we see how relying on what they saw had affected the disciples' faith.

Luke 24:18-21 NLT - 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.

What do you think they concluded about Jesus based on what they had seen happen? Was he who they thought, had his mission failed?

Maybe these disciples hadn't heard Jesus say it directly, but he had told his followers that he would be crucified and three days later be raised from the dead.

Mark 8:31 NLT - 31 Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead.

Believing in the resurrection before it happened required great faith.

What is faith according to Hebrews 11?

Hebrews 11:1 NLT - 1 Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.

Faith doesn't appear out of nowhere, it is cultivated, grown step by step in our walk with Jesus. The more time we spend with him and the more experiences we share, the stronger our faith becomes.

Share some of the times in your life that helped grow your faith. What are some things that have challenged your faith?

3. Shaped Through the Journey

Luke 24:15-16 NLT - 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.

We are conditioned to focus on end results, but God uses our journey with him to shape and teach us. In verse 16 we are told God kept them from recognizing Jesus.

How would their conversation have been different if the disciples recognized Jesus immediately? How did explaining the events in Jerusalem help reveal what was going on in the hearts of the disciples? When they said that there were witnesses to an empty tomb, what do you think that meant to them?

God is not always quick to respond. There may be some prayers that you have prayed for years. Along the way God can give us new insights into our