

## *Life Group Lesson - Week of April 16*

Driven by a mentality of “I want more” many of us are seeking that one thing to satisfy. We expect God to fulfill our dreams. Often even Christ-followers—persons who have believed upon the name of Jesus and invited Christ into their hearts—live unsatisfied. We face a setback or disappointment, or perhaps get discouraged with an unanswered prayer. And because we get disillusioned with faith, we choose fear instead. We start to listen to this world instead of Jesus’ words. Sadly we end up going through the motions unaware that He is personally present with us.

At sundown on that fateful Friday, when Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus were placing Jesus’ body in the new tomb, surely the eleven disciples were saying to themselves, “Why did this happen? What did we do wrong? Why did we spend the last three years with this man, just to see Him die? What were we thinking?” Judas has hung himself. Peter, the ‘Rock’ denied three times that he even knew the Lord. Talk about setbacks, disappointment, being disillusioned! In the shadow of the cross and the dark events leading up to it, surely the disciples had lost all hope.

The disciples were so afraid they went into hiding. Mary Magdalene and the other women forgot that Jesus had said He would rise again, and so they went looking for a body in a graveyard. The two men on the road to Emmaus had lost hope and so they were headed back to their old lives in the country. What these men and women thought was supposed to happen, did not happen. With the difficult events surrounding them, they couldn’t see that God had so much more for them.

### **Read Luke 24:1-12**

The two angels at the empty tomb asked the terrified women: “Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? He isn’t here! Remember what He told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and that He would rise again on the third day.” Then they remembered and rushed to tell the disciples.

1. Think of a time you went “looking among the dead” for someone or something. It may not have been a confrontation with angels, but what jolted you into reality? What (who) helped you find what you were looking for?

Perhaps it was during this time (“looking among the dead”) that you found a deep soul-satisfaction in the Lord. How did Jesus reveal more of Himself personally to you?

### **Read Luke 24:13-34**

These two men from Emmaus were like many of us. The risen Jesus is personally there and yet, we cannot see Him because of sadness and disappointment. Often like these two disciples, our circumstances can cause us to lose hope. We hear reports of resurrection, but find it hard to believe.

2. What was Jesus’ response (v25-26) and how does He connect the dots for the two men on the road to Emmaus (v27)?

As we study the Scriptures, the Lord wants to reveal more of Himself to us, too. God will allow His Word to “burn within us” – come alive and expose our thoughts and motives (see Hebrews 4:12). Perhaps there have been times you have seen a clearer picture of the Lord Jesus in the pages of His Word. How has God’s Word been transformational for you? Share your thoughts.

### **Read Luke 24:35-53**

The disciples were filled with joy and wonder as the risen Lord stood before them. They could hardly believe their eyes. What they initially thought was the end was only the beginning. They saw Jesus suffer—in the Garden of Gethsemane with Judas’ betrayal, the trial, the beatings, the scorn—the picture could not have looked more bleak. On Friday the disciples saw their Lord crucified. But now here He is!

God had more. God always has more. Just when they thought it was all over there was a resurrection on the way! You may be going through a dark time with bleak circumstances staring you in the face. Don’t give up. God has so much more for you. The Lord has a resurrection on the way. But just remember, something has to die before there can be new life. What needs to die in you for new life to spring forth?

3. Jesus appeared to the disciples in a beautiful resurrected body. He even ate a piece of broiled fish as they watched wide-eyed in amazement. In Christ we too have the hope of a bodily resurrection. What does this hope mean to you personally? (see also 1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

Jesus said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled” (v44). And again Jesus opened their minds to understand the Scriptures (v45). What would you like for the Lord to help you understand? Are you willing to seek Him for it? (see also Luke 11:9-13)

Jesus not only wants to walk with us, He wants to live within us. The Lord promises to give the Holy Spirit to anyone who asks. Have you received Christ into your heart? The moment you invite Jesus to be Lord (the Leader) of your life, He gives you the gift of His Spirit. But we must remember the Holy Spirit’s first name is “Holy” – so there will be times the conviction of the Holy Spirit sounds an alarm (i.e. When we are about to get off-path and go down the wrong road).

4. Think of a time the Holy Spirit's conviction caused you to turn (simple definition of repentance: to turn). How long did it take you to respond? What did you learn from this lesson?

After being with His disciples 40 days, the resurrected Jesus leads them to Bethany, on the Mount of Olives just east of Jerusalem. He blesses them and while they are watching, the risen Christ ascends into heaven. His disciples worship Him and go back to the Temple praising God, and to pray and wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

5. According to Matthew 28:18-20 what is their assignment?

Living Jesus' commission to go and make disciples will cost us, but worth it. There are many people who need to know that God has so much more for them. Ask the Lord how He wants you to partner with others in fulfilling His commission. Sharing your faith is as simple as telling how the Easter message is making a difference in your life.

Close by reading—

**I listen carefully to what God the LORD is saying, for He speaks peace to His faithful people. But let them not return to their foolish ways. Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, so our land will be filled with His glory. Unfailing love and truth have met together.**

**Righteousness and peace have kissed! Truth springs up from the earth, and righteousness smiles down from heaven. Yes, the LORD pours down His blessings. Our land will yield its bountiful harvest. Righteousness goes as a herald before Him, preparing the way for His steps.**

**Psalm 85:8-13**

### **One Year Bible Readings**

Apr. 16: Joshua 13:1-14:15, Luke 18:1-17, Psalm 85:1-13, Proverbs 13:7-8  
Apr. 17: Joshua 15:1-63, Luke 18:18-43, Psalm 86:1-17, Proverbs 13:9-10  
Apr. 18: Joshua 16:1-18:28, Luke 19:1-27, Psalm 87:1-7, Proverbs 13:11  
Apr. 19: Joshua 19:1-20:9, Luke 19:28-48, Psalm 88:1-18, Proverbs 13:12-14  
Apr. 20: Joshua 21:1-22:20, Luke 20:1-26, Psalm 89:1-13, Proverbs 13:15-16  
Apr. 21: Joshua 22:21-23:16, Luke 20:27-47, Psalm 89:14-37, Proverbs 13:17-19  
Apr. 22: Joshua 24:1-33, Luke 21:1-28, Psalm 89:38-52, Proverbs 13:20-23

# *Easter*

**Text: Psalm 85:8-13, Luke 24:38-49**

## **The Plain Truth**

**If we seek \_\_\_\_\_ only from this \_\_\_\_\_ we  
will miss the \_\_\_\_\_ from heaven.**