

CONVERSATION GUIDE

1. Take 5-10 minutes to discuss last week's sermon.
2. What do the words "Doubt" and "Joy" mean to you in the context of the Jesus' life?

In the following passage we find two disciples, one named Cleopas and one unnamed that are traveling outside of Jerusalem. That same day the women found Jesus' tomb empty and the stone rolled away. Suddenly, the two disciples meet Jesus on the road to Emmaus, but God kept them from recognizing him.

READ Luke 24:13-39

DISCUSS and REFLECT

1. Name a couple things that stuck out to you in this passage. Why did they stick out?
2. Discuss elements of the passage that were difficult to understand. Explain why or why not.
3. Think about how the two disciples felt in the aftermath of Jesus crucifixion. How does Jesus react to them?
4. There are two instances of Jesus opening up the scriptures to his disciples in this passage. Why is this significant? What is Jesus trying to get the disciples to understand?
5. Why do you think God kept Cleopas and his unnamed companion from recognizing Jesus immediately? Why did Jesus want the disciples to first "walk by faith" and then "by sight"?
6. If you have time, read John 20:24-31 and think about Thomas for a moment. Can you empathize with Thomas? Do you struggle to believe without seeing? Why or why not?

APPLY

1. Think about a time when you or someone close to you had doubts. What does Jesus point to in light of the disciple's confusion and doubt? How does this passage bring meaning and comfort to those experiences?
2. We live in a world where people struggle to believe if they do not see with their own eyes, yet Jesus wanted his disciples to believe first without seeing. How can we apply lessons on scripture from this passage in our everyday lives so that we too may believe without seeing? In what ways do you struggle with this? In what ways have you grown?

MEMORIZE

Luke 24:37-39

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?"

The easiest time to doubt God's word is when his plans contradict our expectations, and we are often discouraged and lose sight of him as a result. But take heart! Just because we cannot see him, doesn't mean he isn't there. Seek him more closely in these moments, through scripture and prayer. Soon you may find that your heart is burning with joy too.

Suggestions for further reading: John 20, New Bible Commentary – 21st Century Edition, Sermon by Tim Keller entitled "Jesus Vindicated", Article from desiringgod.org entitled "The Eyes Jesus Opened First"