

EASTER

The Emmaus Road

April 18&19, 2014

LUKE 24:13-25

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers

delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

Big Idea: *The Resurrection of Jesus is the rebirth of hope for all of us*

Just like Jesus encountered some disciples on their difficult journey home after the loss, He finds us and walks with us

Jesus "draws near to us"

1. IN OUR HEARTBREAKING - Jesus finds us in the hard places of life

- Pain and loss
- Death of dreams and expectations end in disappointment
- **LUKE 24:21** "we had hoped"
- During our journey of desires deferred

HEBREWS 4:15

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are..."

2. IN OUR HEART SEARCHING - Jesus walks with us through our doubts & questions

- God is **still** in it, even if we don't understand it
- We are **slow to believe**, but God is not **slow to fulfill** His promises
- Sometimes we just can't **see** or **process** how God works
- Jesus gives us more than sympathy, He gives us **clarity**

[He led them through the scriptures to see what they could not see]

3. IN OUR HEARTBURNING - Jesus awakens our hearts to believe again

- God's heart towards us is revealed in the "body and blood" broken on the cross
- Restores Hope "the Lord has risen indeed"
- Brings us back from **wander** to **wonder** again - "Did not our hearts burn within us"

LUKE 24:32

They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?"

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Can you recall a difficult journey that you were on, in which you felt like you were walking alone?

2. Have you encountered a moment when you were disappointed with where you were in life? Are you there now? Or, how did you get out of that place?

3. Are you wandering or wondering in this season?

4. Through all of this, when did you encounter Jesus?