

BIBLE STUDY HANDOUT

LUKE 24:13-27

APRIL 15, 2026



FOCUS QUESTIONS:

- Think of a time when you were so disappointed that you physically could not stay in the place where it happened. You just had to walk. Where did you go, and what were you looking for?
- Has there ever been a moment when you were in the middle of telling someone your pain – and you didn't recognize, until later, that the very person you needed most was the one listening?
- What are we failing to see, and whose voice are we failing to hear because our gaze has shifted away from the possible to our way of escape?

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Luke 24:13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^a from Jerusalem, **14** and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. **15** While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, **16** but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

17 And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.^a **18** Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” **19** He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth,^a who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, **20** and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. **21** But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.^a Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. **22**

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Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, **23** and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. **24** Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” **25** Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! **26** Was it not necessary that the Messiah^a should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” **27** Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

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ENTER THE TEXT

- **You are Cleopas. You have just watched the man you believed was going to redeem Israel die on a Roman cross three days ago. A stranger falls in beside you on the road. What is your first instinct – to talk, or to walk faster?**
- **The stranger asks: 'What are you discussing?' Luke tells us they stood still – and their faces were downcast. What does it mean that grief stopped their feet before it stopped their mouths? Where in your body does despair live?**
- **Cleopas says to this stranger: 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know what happened?' They are explaining the resurrection story – to the resurrected one. What does it feel like to realize you have been explaining God to God?**

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AMPLICATION QUESTIONS

- **Luke 24:11 tells us that when the women reported the resurrection, the disciples – these two men among them – considered their words 'idle talk' (Greek: leros – nonsense, the babbling of the hysterical). In the ancient Near East, women could not give legal testimony. Their witness was inadmissible by definition. What did these men lose – what truth did they forfeit – by dismissing the only people who had actually gone to the tomb?**
- **These men describe the women almost as a footnote – 'moreover, some women of our group astounded us' – and then immediately pivot back to the male disciples who went to verify the empty tomb. The women found the empty tomb and an angelic announcement. The men found only the linen cloths. Who actually received the fuller revelation? What does that tell us about where God tends to place the first and fullest witness?**
- **These men say: 'We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel.' Their hope was for a specific kind of redemption – political, military, national. When the redemption that came did not match the redemption they expected, they could not receive it. What happens to us spiritually when God answers a prayer – but not in the form we specified?**

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AMPLIFICATION QUESTIONS

- **These men walked seven miles with the risen Jesus and did not know it. Seven miles of conversation. Seven miles of scripture unfolded. Seven miles of burning hearts – and still no recognition. What is walking beside you right now that you are failing to recognize because your grief has already decided what is and is not possible?**
- **The women said: 'He is risen.' The men said: 'Idle talk.' Ask yourself honestly – whose voices in your community, in your church, in your family, do you consistently receive as 'idle talk'? Not because what they say is wrong, but because of who they are? What truth have you already dismissed today?**
- **The men's privilege did not make them evil – it made them blind. Privilege rarely announces itself as cruelty. It announces itself as reasonableness – as the quiet confidence that you already know who the credible witnesses are. Where is your reasonableness costing you the truth?**
- **Jesus does not correct them immediately. He walks with them in their wrong understanding – for miles – before he opens the scriptures. What does it tell us about God that the risen Christ's first pastoral act is not correction, but accompaniment? What would it mean to offer that same accompaniment to someone whose despair is making them unable to see what is right in front of them?**

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AMPLIFICATION QUESTIONS

- **Their eyes were 'kept from recognizing him' – Luke uses a divine passive, suggesting this blindness was somehow permitted by God. But what if the limiting factor is a function of their making and not God's? Have you ever been blinded by your imagination, desperation?**
- **The women went to the tomb (named and unnamed). Then they went to tell the eleven--Peter then went to the tomb and then went home...amazed. The women received the first announcement of resurrection. The men received it secondhand – and dismissed it. And yet here is the unbearable grace of this story: Jesus went after the ones who had already given up and walked away. He did not wait for them to come back. He went to them on the road they chose in their despair. Who in your life has walked away like that? Who has gone after them like that? Are you willing to go after those?**
- **If the full truth of resurrection required the testimony of the women – what voices are you missing in your own theological community? Who is not at the table whose absence is costing everyone present a fuller picture of God?**
- **The moment of recognition came not in the unfolding of scripture – but in the breaking of bread. In an ordinary meal. In hospitality. Where in the ordinary rhythms of your week is the risen Christ most likely to be made known to you – and are you present enough to notice?**