

# Discussion Guide

Week of April 27, 2014

Luke 24:13-53

**Passage Overview:** This is the first of three resurrection appearances found in Luke and is one of the longest stories in the Gospel. In this text, two of Jesus' disciples are walking to Emmaus, possibly after having celebrated the Passover in Jerusalem. The location of Emmaus is uncertain, but it was in Judea seven miles from Jerusalem. Alone and confused, the two meet a stranger who helps them to process all that has happened, consisting primarily of a detailed summary of Old Testament teaching about the one they expected to redeem Israel. This account further emphasizes the physical reality of Jesus' resurrection body (vv36-43) and the necessity of Jesus' death and resurrection taking place in fulfillment of God's providential plan (vv44-49).

## Understanding the Text—Read Luke 24:13-53.

- Verse 14 indicates that two of Jesus' disciples were discussing "these things that had happened." How do we know what their conversation concerned?
- In verse 17, the two are described as "looking sad." Why? What were they expecting?
- The disciples mention specifically in verse 22 that women found the empty tomb. Women at that time were considered to be less credible than men. How does this lend credibility to Luke's account?
- Read vv39-43 again. Jesus is fully God and fully man. How is his humanity emphasized throughout Luke's text here?

## Living and Applying God's Word

- Verse 16 notes that their "eyes were kept from recognizing" Christ. Why do you think this happens?
  - At what point are their eyes "opened" to recognize him for who he truly is?
  - Why is the breaking of bread associated with Christ? How does this distinguish him from others, especially other "saviors"?
  - It is through Gospel-proclamation that people see Christ, but we also know that eyes must be opened [presumably by someone or something] in order to see him (see also v45). What does this say about God's grace toward sinners? In what sense are all men and women blind? What does it mean to see?
- The disciples are described as "sad" (v17), "frightened" (v37), and "troubled" with "doubts...in [their] hearts" (v38). These are symptoms of heart problems—one rooted in another.
  - What is their immediate cause for grief? Look at vv19-24.
  - Jesus' remedies for their grief reveal a deeper issue at stake. Where does Jesus direct them in vv25-27, v44? And in v39?
  - How do God's word and Christ's resurrection challenge our inclination toward anxiety, depression, fear, and doubt? About God's love for us? About the Gospel?

## Turning to God in Faith and Repentance

- When the two disciples realize who Jesus is they remark, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" (v32). Examine your own heart. Does your heart "burn" thinking of the person and work of Christ? At the opening (and reading) of the Scriptures? Why not? How can you cultivate renewed yearning for Christ?

**Prayer:** Pray for renewed passion for Christ, his word, his work and the good news that he saves sinners. Pray for those you love whose eyes remain closed to the reality of who Christ is and what he has done. Ask him for wisdom as you engage their own fears and doubts. Discuss the needs of those in your group, and be sure to pray for one another. Finally, pray for Scott and Maria Carpenter as they serve God in Southeast Asia.

## Announcements

- Starting Pointe (May 2-4; Robert@insidecrosspointe.com)
- Children's Ministry Volunteer Training (May 4, 9 a.m.; Rachel@insidecrosspointe.com)
- Men's Lunch (May 6, noon; Springer@insidecrosspointe.com)
- Ladies' Lunch (May 20, noon; Rachel@insidecrosspointe.com)