

Let's connect

Blessed is the king who comes
in the name of the Lord! Peace
in Heaven and glory in the highest!

Luke 19:38 (NIV)

Connect Groups Study | Study 5. From Confusion to Transformation



STUDY 5

FROM CONFUSION TO TRANSFORMATION

SCRIPTURES

Luke 24:13-35

Background, context, and observations

On the day of Jesus' resurrection, two disciples were journeying from Jerusalem to Emmaus (approximately a distance of 10-12km). In their confusion about Jesus' death and with the news that the women had seen a vision of angels beside an empty tomb, Jesus appeared in the flesh, walking alongside these two disciples (v15). We read that when Jesus enquired about what they were discussing, they stood still with their faces downcast. What an irony — these confused disciples went on to explain (and even complain) to their risen Saviour about the disappointments they felt as Jesus of Nazareth had been crucified.

Jesus responded by explaining all of the scriptures concerning himself (v27). How astonishing to read that these two disciples were kept from recognising Jesus during their entire journey with Him, even when they urged Him to stay with them longer because it was getting late (v29). Their hearts were burning whilst Jesus opened the scriptures to them (v32) but it wasn't until after Jesus broke bread with them that they finally recognised Him (v30, 35).

Example Questions for Discussion

1. Read Luke 24:25-27 and discuss how Jesus handled the confusion and misunderstandings of these disciples. What can we learn about God's character through Jesus' actions in this story? Spend some time in prayers of surrender, asking the Holy Spirit to remove any confusion or disbelief within yourself. Ask for your heart to burn (v32) as He reveals Jesus to you in ever-deepening ways through the Word of God.
2. Throughout Scripture, we see a link between seeing Jesus, surrender to Jesus, and transformation. Read Romans 12:1-2. Notice the "therefore" in verse 1. Whenever we encounter that word, we must ask, "What's the 'therefore' there for?" So, backing up a few verses to gain some context, read Romans 11:33-36. Discuss the link between the truths in Paul's hymn of praise and the command to be transformed by the renewing of our mind.
3. Read Luke 24:33-35. What elements indicate the transformation of the disciples from the downcast "we had hoped..." state to a whole new posture? Just as Jesus met the two disciples in their confusion, how has Jesus shown up in your confusion? In what situations have you had an "I had hoped..." moment (v21) and Jesus met you there, bringing hope and transformation? Share some ways that God has transformed your life. Are there areas in which you have grown in the last year to become more like Jesus?

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Dive Deeper

Related scriptures: John 20:11-18; John 21:1-14; James 1:22-25

For further consideration:

1. Examine both Mary and the disciples' interactions with post-resurrection Jesus in the above passages in The Gospel of John. Why did they fail to recognise Jesus at first?
2. Read James 1:22-25, and the surrounding verses. The Greek word for "looks intently" (parakypso) is the same word used in John 20:11 when Mary looked into the tomb and saw the two angels in white. The word creates an image of a posture — to 'stoop', 'to look into', to 'inspect curiously'. Ponder your own posture. Are you intent on seeing Jesus? For further insight, examine other passages that use this Greek word: <https://biblehub.com/interlinear/james/1-25.htm>

For further study:

Knowing Jesus through the Old Testament - Christopher J.H. Wright

Hillsong Collected Blog: The Table, Parts 1 & 2.

<https://hillsong.com/collected/blog/2020/05/the-table-part-1/>

<https://hillsong.com/collected/blog/2020/05/the-table-part-2/>

With thanks to Sam from Brisbane Central

Connect

Take time to pray together as you consider Jesus and your expectations as we approach Easter

Grow

40 days deeper devotional - resource ideas

crossequalslove.com

Serve

CityCare

