



Growth Group Questions
April 27, 2025
“Jesus Joins the Conversation”

CONTEXT

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus returns to visit people in various places and then gives some thoughts about life and instructions for the believers. In chapter 24, we get a glimpse of two people walking away from Jerusalem on the road to Emmaus. This town was about 7 miles away from the big city. They were likely leaving the festivities of the Passover and were well aware of the crucifixion.

Then Jesus appears to these two people who knew about the events but didn't seem to have intimate connections with the disciples or the religious leaders. Yet, Jesus still chooses to follow them and strike up a conversation without revealing His identity.

As we dig deeper into this text, we see a playful Jesus who is questioning their impression of the events that took place. Then He takes them through all of the Scriptures that foretold when the Messiah would come and all of the prophecies that were fulfilled. This echoes the practice of the Passover meal that Jesus took His disciples through in the Upper Room.

Through this snapshot after the resurrection, Jesus uses this time to reveal that He was not only resurrected, but also shows up with people in the midst of their conversations. He is able to steer them in the direction of how to follow.

The Greek word for follow is *akoloutheo*. It also means to accompany or attend. The word *acolyte*, which is an assistant to worship in other church traditions, stems from this word. Jesus is able to use this concept to call people to make disciples and assist Him in sending out the message of salvation.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:13-34

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

¹⁹ “What things?” he asked. “About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

²⁵ He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. ²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² 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?” ³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.”

Exodus 40:34-38

³⁴ Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁵ Moses could not enter the tent of meeting because the cloud had settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. ³⁶ In all the travels of the Israelites, whenever the cloud lifted from above the tabernacle, they would set out; ³⁷ but if the cloud did not lift, they did not set out—until the day it lifted. ³⁸ So the cloud of the LORD was over the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud by night, in the sight of all the Israelites during all their travels.

John 13:33-35

³³ “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. ³⁴ “A new command I give you:

Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Romans 5:3-5

³ Not only so, but we^[a] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

QUESTIONS

1. In Luke 24:15, we are told that the two men who were walking along the road to Emmaus didn’t recognize Jesus when He first began to walk with them. Why do you think God kept these two men from recognizing Jesus?
2. Why do you think Jesus takes these two men through the Hebrew scriptures rather than simply identifying Himself to them? What can we learn from this?
3. What helps you to recognize that Jesus is really walking with you when you are discouraged or confused?
4. Pastor Chad said that God provides us with opportunities to grow in our faith. How does He do that?
5. What does it mean to follow Jesus?
6. What Bible verse or verses help you to better understand what it means to follow Jesus?
7. Pastor Chad said that we must move from “doing” to “being” if we are to truly become followers of Jesus. What does that mean to you?
8. What lessons can we take away from the story of the road to Emmaus as found in Luke 24:13-34?