



“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?’”—Luke 24:32

Faith can be a fickle thing. And it appears, at times, to rise and fall with the tides. When life is going well, our faith is strong. But when life throws a curve ball at us, our faith wanes. That’s what happened to two of Jesus’ disciples on the road to Emmaus. It had been three days since Jesus had died on the cross. But there was a report early that morning from some of Jesus’ female followers. After going to the tomb, they reported that Jesus’ body wasn’t there and that He had risen from the dead and had appeared to them! Suddenly, the disciples’ whole demeanor changed and confusion reigned. They had thought He was dead, buried in the tomb, and hope buried along with Him. But with this report that He had risen from the dead...and that...well, that was beyond belief. When hope was dead, their faith waned, but with the reports of His resurrection, there was a pulse of hope again.

As the two disciples walked along the road, discussing everything that had transpired, Jesus approached. He asked what they were discussing as they walked along. Unable to process everything, they stopped, looking sad. Hope was still wavering, and Jesus’ question caused the gravity of His death to wash over them all over again. They didn’t know it was He who spoke to them. Then one of them, a disciple named Cleopas, replied, *“Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”* (v. 18). One wonders what Jesus’ face looked like when He said, *“What things?”* Hope was alive, and they were unable to see it.

They responded by telling Him about everything that had just occurred. They’d thought Jesus was a prophet who was to redeem Israel, but He had been killed, and what was unfathomable was the report that He had now risen from the dead. It was then that Jesus explained everything—it was necessary that He had to suffer—it had been prophesied. As they arrived in Emmaus, Cleopas and his friend stopped, while Jesus looked as if He were going to keep walking. They urged Him to stay with them because the day was almost over. Jesus agreed and as they were getting ready to eat, Jesus took the bread, blessed it, and broke it. It was at that moment that they recognized Him (v. 31). Jesus then immediately vanished from their sight and they said, *“Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?”* And in their joy, they got up and went back to Jerusalem and told the eleven disciples, *“The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!”*(v. 34).

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus had a small flicker of faith. The winds of life caused it to almost die as the fact of Jesus’ death rushed over it. But it was the breath of God through Christ’s words that caused their

faith to fan into flame. It was the Author of the Word, the one who breathed out every word of God, showing the living nature of the very words He uttered that breathed on that flickering flame. And through Jesus, their small spark grew into a roaring fire that spilled onto others.



OPEN IT

1. Describe a time when you wanted to give up, but you didn't and found success.

2. What is one event in your life that has heavily influenced how you live now?

READ IT | Luke 24:13-35

EXPLORE IT



3. On what day did the two followers of Christ go to Emmaus (v. 13)?

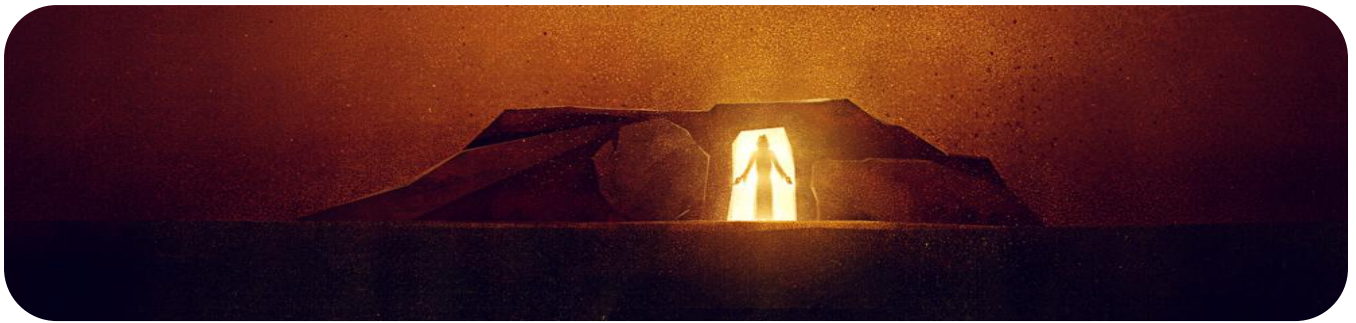
4. What were the things that had happened that they were talking about (v. 14)?

5. Why did the two disciples not recognize Jesus (v. 16)?

6. What Scriptures did Jesus use to explain the truth about Himself (v. 27)?

7. What did Jesus do that caused the two men to recognize Him (v. 30-31)?

8. What would make the two disciples travel the seven miles back to Jerusalem at such a late hour (v. 29, 33)?



GET IT

There are certain events that define our lives—JFK’s assassination, the Challenger blowing up, and 9/11 come to mind. But no event is greater than the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Martin Luther once said that the “resurrection is the hinge upon which the door of Christianity turns.”

9. Why is the resurrection important for the Christian?

10. Do you feel that Christians talk about the resurrection too little or too much? Explain.

11. When you speak about Christ, do you speak about His resurrection? Why or why not?

12. What if there was no resurrection? If archaeologists were to find the body of Jesus, would that affect your faith (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:12-19)?

13. Does the resurrection of Jesus affect your daily life? Why or why not? Be honest.

14. How can we have the resurrection be what it really is—the greatest event in the history of the world that transforms our daily lives? What does that look like?

15. The disciples missed what God had embedded in the Old Testament about God's Messiah (v. 27). What do you think we are missing that would help us see Him better? What is getting in the way? How can we change that?

Travelling at night could be very difficult in the ancient world, but these men, though they were tired and it was late, suddenly found new energy and were willing to travel the seven miles back to Jerusalem to talk to the apostles.

16. What is it about the resurrection that should energize us and cause us to want to tell others about Jesus and what He has done?

17. Who can you talk to about Jesus' resurrection this week and invite to church? Pray and ask God for the opportunity to invite them!