



WEEKLY STUDY

Even When I Don't See It - Week One

In the few weeks after Easter, we will be wrapping up our 18 month look at the Gospel of Luke! We start with this story of Jesus meeting two disciples on the road to Emmaus. This encounter is rich with significance—for the disciples (obviously!) and also for us. I pray that you will hear the voice of Jesus speaking to you as you walk with him this week.

Please note our prayer focus for the week in the box below. Join us in seeing what God will do as we unite in prayer.

Peace of Christ,
Pastor Mark Youngman

If you are studying with your Providence Small Group or Discipleship Group, you can share from your own daily reflections and consider the Group Discussion questions below. If you would like to get connected visit prov.church/smallgroups.

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for the nearly 40 students who said yes to Jesus and confirmed their baptisms on Sunday. Lift them up to God that they might hear His voice speaking his promises over them.

DAILY STUDY

MONDAY: LUKE 24.13-32 (ESV)

That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem,¹⁴ and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened.¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them.¹⁶ But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.¹⁷ And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad.¹⁸ Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"¹⁹ And he said to them,

“What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,²⁰ and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.²² Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning,²³ and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even 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 him they did not see.”²⁵ And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther,²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them.³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them.³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.³² 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?”

- It makes sense that many of Jesus’ disciples would be struggling with the news of the empty tomb on Easter. These two disciples may have been experiencing fear mixed with a little hope that what they had heard about Jesus could really be true. And yet, they didn’t recognize him when he was walking next to them. Were they looking for Jesus walking upright? Were they looking for a misplaced body? Or were they just looking to get out of town? Are there specific parts of the Easter story that are difficult for you to believe sometimes? When you face those doubts, do you look for Jesus himself or for some other form of answer to your questions?
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- **Prayer Prompt: So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” (John 20.25)**
- *Jesus, I want to set my eyes on you today. My hope is in your resurrection life, so let me walk alongside you today. Amen.*

TUESDAY: LUKE 24.13-32 (ESV)

- Why were the disciples “kept from recognizing him”? We may not know for sure, but it led to a beautiful revelation when later, he broke the bread in their presence and they saw him for who he is. Some of my deepest moments of awareness that Jesus is near have come during or soon after Holy Communion. In the breaking of the bread, we can see a straight line from the bread basket of Bethlehem, to the Passover meal in the upper room, to the broken body on the cross, to this moment in Emmaus, to our own communion table. When have you been most aware of the presence of Jesus?

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- **Prayer Prompt: The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” (Deuteronomy 31.8)**
 - *Jesus, thank you for being the bread broken for the sake of the world. Redeem me through your blood poured out and let me sit in your real presence today. Amen.*

WEDNESDAY: LUKE 24.13-32 (ESV)

- Even without social media and our modern communication channels, the news about Jesus’ death on a cross and burial in a tomb had spread quickly. The disciples who thought they had encountered a stranger, couldn’t believe that there would be even one person who hadn’t heard the news. It would be good for us to consider that strangers we meet along the way might not have heard anything about Jesus. What if we could share the story with the same “that very day” energy and urgency? How might you begin to practice this today?
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- **Prayer Prompt: The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3.9)**
- *Jesus, if there is any part of me that has become numb to the urgency of the Good News, rekindle in me a passion to see others the way you do. Give voice to the joy I have in your salvation. Amen.*

THURSDAY: LUKE 24.13-32 (ESV)

- After the disciples shared the news of the last three days with Jesus, he got their attention with a rebuke. He called them foolish and slow of heart to believe. This is more than a challenge to their intellect, it is a challenge to the condition of their hearts. He knew that they had already been told these events would happen (he told them!). It was not a lack of information, it was a lack of imagination, and a slowness to believe. Have you ever experienced a slow-heart-condition when it comes to believing in the resurrection? Have you experienced a grace-full correction from Jesus? Write about any encounters you might have had.
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- **Prayer Prompt: And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. (Hebrews 11.6)**
 - *God, increase my faith today. I want my heart to be consistently ready to believe the fulfillment of your promises to me. Help my unbelief. Amen.*

FRIDAY: LUKE 24.13-32 (ESV)

- *“Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”* Many have referred to this time of teaching as the best Bible Study of all time. Can you imagine hearing the One whom John refers to as the Word of God trace the whole story of salvation? Wouldn't you want to record it so that you could play it over and over again? Sometimes I imagine my first moments in Heaven to be filled with fresh awareness of all of the ways God was at work throughout history (including my own personal history). Can you anticipate the joy you would feel in knowing that Jesus was right there all along?
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- **Prayer Prompt: Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. (Hebrews 10.23)**
- *Jesus, how I long to be close enough to you that I could hear your own voice describe God's salvation story that was written through you! Amen.*

SATURDAY: LUKE 24.13-32 (ESV)

- At the end of their journey, Jesus acted as if he was going to carry on down the road. His act drew a quick response from the disciples he had been walking with and teaching. It caused them to examine what had been happening in their own hearts as he talked. Moments later, after Jesus was urged to stay a little longer, they confessed that their “slow hearts” had been stirred as the stranger who turned out to be Jesus had spoken with them. He revealed himself through the scripture, and then their eyes were opened to this presence in the breaking, blessing, and giving thanks for the bread. When we pray before a meal, it is more than a religious obligation. We bless and give thanks before the breaking of the bread in a way that can make Jesus visible at our table. What does a blessing look like at your table?
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- **Prayer Prompt: For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, ⁵ because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. (1 Timothy 4.4-5)**
 - *God, thank you for the example you have given me that allows my heart to be reoriented to your goodness. Let me live in a constant awareness of your provision and presence. Amen.*

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read the passage again one more time together. Pay attention to phrases and images that stand out to you. Share what you heard.

- What reports of resurrection have you heard? Literal resurrection? Metaphorical (new life) resurrection?
- Spend some time exploring where Jesus shows up in the whole of the Bible. Where do you see him? Creation? Exodus? Psalms? Prophets?
- Read verses 33-35. What do you notice about the disciples' response to their experience with the risen Jesus? Share with one another about encounters with Jesus you've experienced.