



**LC STUDY GUIDE**  
**Easter Sunday**  
 The Passage: Luke 24:13-35  
 March 28 - April 10

**Intro:** We find ourselves at Easter reflecting on an amazing encounter that the risen Jesus has on the road with two disciples headed to Emmaus—only they don't realize it's him. In this passage of Scripture, we want to focus on how sometimes the very thing you're looking for is hidden right in front of you... and everything changes when you see it.

Take the time to tell some fun stories about both or one of these questions:

- Have you ever met someone not knowing their identity, only to realize later there was a connection? (Perhaps your future father-in-law pretending not to be who he is, a celebrity wanting to remain undiscovered, or perhaps you're talking to someone who doesn't know you are a pastor while they are complaining about how boring church can be ;)
- Have you ever hidden your identity for a particular reason? How did it feel when you remained "hidden?" Did you reveal who you were?

Let's take a look at this passage and if possible, suspend our knowledge that we know the stranger is Jesus. For the sake of exercise, pretend you are Cleopas and his friend taking it all in.

### **Luke 24:13-35**

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles 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." 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

○ – The passage begins with Cleopas and his friend discussing all that happened regarding the crucifixion of Jesus. Imagine you are Cleopas's friend. What are the aspects of the crucifixion story that you would have wanted to talk about or process aloud?

○ – Bible commentators speculate that Cleopas is the only one named because only he would have been familiar to Luke's readers. Jesus decides to remain anonymous and walk alongside Cleopas and his friend. He inquires of their conversation and, though they are shocked by his unawareness of recent events, they explain. What do you find interesting in their description of the events in verses 19-24?

○ – In verses 19-24, the two disciples are affirming essential creedal facets of Jesus. He was a powerful prophet; the chief priests handed him over to be crucified; we had hoped he would deliver Israel; empty tomb, etc. The lack of evidence of the dead body or the risen body of Jesus, the appearance of angels, and the empty tomb only added to their bewilderment. Again imagine you are one of them. Give voice to their confusion, their hope, and their reluctance to believe.

*(Leaders' Note: These Observation Questions are aimed to build on top of each other and invite our groups to examine the text closely. The previous question will likely list the facts and various insights. This question hopes to give voice to the confusion and frustration. Among the*

*possibilities, it's not enough to hear accounts of angels and empty tombs; we must experience the risen Jesus for ourselves.)*

**I** – Finally, the unassuming stranger brings clarity to the moment and explains the suffering Messiah and the message through the prophets. In our NIV translation, he begins by saying "How foolish you are..." Foolishness in Scripture is generally understood in the context of "being slow to believe or to obey God's leading." Why do you think Jesus begins his explanation this way? And beyond this explanation to these two disciples, what do you think Luke is leading his readers towards?

**I** – For students of the Bible, we find a scene reminiscent of the Last Supper and Luke's continued use of Jesus teaching at the table. We also discover one of the most beautiful features in Scripture taking place in Luke 24:30. Here Luke uses the familiar language structure of Eve giving Adam the forbidden fruit and their eyes being opened to their shame and nakedness. Similarly, here Jesus is giving these two disciples actual bread but also the "bread of life" and "their eyes were opened." Luke gives his readers plenty of space to discuss how Jesus is the answer to sin and death and the way of life and love. What thoughts and feelings stir in your heart as you put these pieces together?

**A** – Again, we find that Jesus is both hidden and present. He is ready to be recognized. How can we imitate Jesus' example of walking alongside others on the journey (and the many other ways we find in Scripture), as we share our hope in the salvation of Jesus?

**A** – Whether you participated in the "On the Road" series or not, spend some time describing what you may have gained through this Lenten/Easter season. How is following Jesus on the road of life shaping/changing you?

## **Central Point – Sometimes the person and truth of Jesus is hidden right in front of us... and everything changes when you see it.**

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- a. Please note that not all these questions are to be asked in a single meeting. Take some time to prayerfully discern what will serve your LC the best. Select and reword the questions that best fit your voice and your Life Community group.
  - b. Complement these questions with "process questions" (what else? what more? what do others think?)
  - c. When you ask questions, give people ample time to think and respond. Wait. Take your time; don't rush people but encourage participation. Avoid answering your own questions!
  - d. Application: Pace the study to conclude with difference-making application.
  - e. Secondary texts—use other texts sparingly, even if they are relevant. Such texts will push you into "teaching" rather than facilitating, causing people to feel distracted or de-powered.