

Small Group Meeting on Road to Emmaus

Review (20 mins)

Reflect together on your experiences over the last term. What has God been teaching you? Where have you been growing in your walk with Him? How have the challenges you set yourselves during the term worked out? What do you want to give thanks for? What do you need prayer for?

Read (10 mins)

Recap on the sermon from last Sunday. Try to give a summary to those who were not able to be present.

Luke 24:13-35

Read the Bible passage for this week, slowly and prayerfully. It might help to use your imagination to picture the scene. Below, you will find helpful background information in our 'Setting the Scene' section.

As you read, look out for *shockers* and *blockers*.

Shockers – a phrase, word, image or something from the text that resonates, stands out or connects with you.

Blockers – something from the text that raises questions for you.

Setting the scene:

- All the post-Resurrection narratives capture the complete unexpectedness of what was happening. We need to work hard at thinking ourselves back into the story. In doing so, our own familiarity with the story can be challenged afresh.

Reflect (20 mins)

After you have all had time to read the text, pause and be still to listen to God through the Scriptures.

Begin your reflection time by each naming your *shockers* and *blockers*. Listen carefully to each other, share your thoughts and reflect on this passage together.

You might also like to explore these questions:

Q1. What difference does the fact of the resurrection make to your attitudes, fears, emotions around:

- Your own mortality (both the act of dying and death itself)?
- Bereavement?

Q2. The two on the Emmaus Road recognised Jesus in the 'breaking of the bread'. How do you encounter the risen Jesus in our communion services?

Q3. Jesus helps the two on the road to see the background biblical material pointing to his life, death and resurrection. People today will ask questions about the resurrection. How would you defend the fact of the physical resurrection of Jesus in a way which goes beyond intellectual argument and allows them to meet with Jesus?

Respond (20 mins)

The questions (particularly the first) will result in different answers and reactions in each of us. Spend time praying for each other as you handle these issues in your own lives and in the lives of others.

(No new challenge ideas this week. During May the sermon and small group series will be looking at stewardship. Start asking yourself the question: which comes first – my lifestyle or God?)