## JESUS' RESURRECTION PROVES YOU MATTER TO GOD

Lesson One: There's a Place You Can Find Answers

On the Road to Emmaus: Read Luke 24:13-24

Movie: beginning – 7:07

[Identify several questions to pause for deeper discussion in small groupings with a few points to share with all.]

Over 2000 years ago two followers of Jesus walked along a road to their hometown of Emmaus discussing the recent events. "I can't believe it happened. It doesn't make sense."

1. List some of the events of those last several days that had these two disciples so downcast.

## Read the Account:

## Crucifixion:

- Matthew 27:11-66
- Luke 22:47–23:56

What most impacts you in these accounts?

- 2. Examine reasons why the events surrounding the crucifixion must have been especially hard for the followers of Jesus to handle.
- 3. What shattering events in your life became the hot topic of conversations and created similar emotional reactions?
- 4. Sort out some of the questions that arise when these shattering events hit us personally.
- 5. Analyze the ways Jesus showed the disciples that they matter to him while walking on the road to Emmaus.

Difficult and confusing times can easily make us disheartened and dispirited like the Emmaus disciples. Sometimes in life, it feels as though things have gone wrong and we begin to lose hope.

On the Road to Emmaus: Read Luke 24:25-27

- 6. Read Luke 24:25,26 out loud with the accent and tone of voice you think Jesus might have said these words. Explain why you chose that approach.
- 7. Identify the phrase that would eventually be key to their understanding of the situation. Why?
- Usually, when Jesus taught (e.g. Mark 1:22), people were amazed at his teaching. Determine why Jesus directed these two individuals to the Scriptures (Moses and the Prophets) instead of just giving them the answers.

## **Study Further**

The source and authority of Scriptures:

- 2 Peter 1:15-21
- 2 Timothy 3:13-16

What do these tell you about the Bible?

There is so much we can't see or understand. God does know our struggles. We do matter to God. That is why he enlightens us, so we don't have to be in the dark. He provides answers for us to help us sort through things we could never discover on our own. He made sure it was written down for us. "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope" (Romans 15:4).

- 9. Explain why the Apostle Paul often refers to the very events that initially confused the Emmaus disciples and uses them to provide hope for those who are grieving.
  - □ 1 Thessalonians 4:13,14 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.
- Discuss particular promises of God's Word you cling to when you are hurting.
- 11. Formulate a plan to increase your time or attention in walking with Jesus daily and listening to God's words of insight, encouragement, and hope for you.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.



"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you ... For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God" (1 Peter 1:3,4,23).