

"INSERT SERIES GRAPHIC WHEN AVAILABLE"

BIG IDEA

Even in our doubt and disappointment, Jesus is walking with us

BIBLE

Luke 24:13-35

ABOUT THIS WEEK

We meet two disciples walking away from Jerusalem, discouraged and confused after Jesus' death. But Jesus shows up in their confusion, walks with them, and opens their eyes to hope again. This week is about making space for your questions, realizing you're not alone in them, and trusting that Jesus is closer than you think—even when you don't recognize Him.

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

HOOK – What do we do now?

- Have you ever had something you really looked forward to?
 - Maybe it's a family vacation, a birthday, the start of Football season, the release of a new movie, or the return of your favorite TV show.
 - For months, you're counting down the days and making plans. You're full of anticipation...
 - But what do you do when it's over?
 - Have you ever gotten home from a vacation or binged watched your favorite show and thought... what now?
 - What do I do now? What do I have to look forward to?
- Let me ask... have you ever felt that way with anything in regards to your faith?
 - Maybe you went to camp and had an encounter with Jesus, but then you come home and things just feel like they've gone back to normal.
 - Maybe you've made the decision to follow Jesus with all your heart and you're on fire for a while, but then things just kind of... settle...
- Last Sunday, we celebrated Easter, the greatest day in human history. But then Monday came around, and maybe it felt like not much had changed.
 - Be honest. Have you ever felt that way?
 - And has that feeling ever left you with doubt?
 - Have you ever prayed but felt like God wasn't listening?
 - Have you ever read your Bible because you wanted to connect with God, but the time just felt dry and stale?
- What do you do when you've had a genuine encounter with Jesus, but now life isn't as exciting?
 - Sometimes... we start to doubt. And I want you to know two things:
 - That's ok and totally normal.
 - **Even in our doubt and disappointment, Jesus is walking with us.**

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

Luke 24:13-35 – On the Road to Emmaus (*telos pg. 1029*)

- In today's passage, we are dropping in on Resurrection Sunday. Jesus has risen from the grave, but only a handful of people know that. And in this story, we see two disciples – two followers of Jesus – who were in town over the weekend when Jesus was crucified, but they don't know that He has risen from the dead yet.

- After all of the excitement of the weekend and all the celebration of the Passover, they are heading back home, feeling defeated because the man they thought was their savior, as far as they know, is dead. And as you can probably imagine, they are feeling some doubts. They are questioning if Jesus was the life-changing Messiah that He claimed to be.
- **READ LUKE 24:13-16**
 - These disciples were confused, heartbroken, and full of questions... and Jesus was still with them.
 - And this teaches us something that applies to us as well: **Sometimes, we don't recognize Jesus walking with us in our hard times until later on down the road.**
 - Let's keep reading...
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- **READ LUKE 24:17-27**
 - I want you to notice a couple of things here:
 - Jesus listens to their questions before offering truth.
 - Jesus doesn't scold them – he patiently walks with them and reminds them of what God said all along:
 - I want to make a note here that Jesus does call them “fools”, but that wouldn't have meant to them what it means to us today.
 - The word “fool” at the time simply meant someone who didn't understand.
 - Jesus called them this, not to make fun of them, but to help them see that even though they had all of the head knowledge about what had happened that weekend, they were still missing the point.
 - And then Jesus lovingly and patiently clarifies all that the Scriptures were about.
 - Jesus doesn't need you to have it all together to walk with you. He joins you right in your doubt, disappointment, and confusion.
- **READ LUKE 24:28-35**
 - **ILLUSTRATION:** For them, this is like that [moment in the first Spider-Man movie with Tobey Maguire when he realizes his vision has been changed](#).
 - Jesus joins them for a meal and as He breaks bread and gives it to them, they realize who He is and then He disappears.
 - *(Side note: This reaffirms Jesus' command to take communion in remembrance of Him.)*
 - But even once He disappeared, it's obvious that this encounter with these men had changed them forever because their hearts “burned within them.”
 - Faith isn't about having all the answers-it's about realizing Jesus was with you the whole time... even when you don't feel it or realize it in the moment.

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

- So what do we do when we have doubts and questions? What do we do when we feel like God is absent? How can we remember that Jesus walks with us in our doubts?

Here are 5 ways to walk with Jesus when you have questions:

1. **REMEMBER JESUS' PROMISE**
 - Memorize Matthew 28:20b
 - i. “...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
 2. **REMEMBER A TIME WHEN GOD FELT MOST REAL TO YOU**
 - Write down a time when you knew God was close
 - A time when worship moved you.
 - When you saw a prayer answered
 - When you felt peace
 - The moment you said yes to Jesus for the first time
 - That moment still matters. Let it remind you that if God was real then, then He is still real now.
 3. **BE HONEST WITH GOD**
 - Jesus can handle your doubts. The disciples literally said they didn't know what to believe-and Jesus walked with them anyway.
 - “Jesus, I feel confused. I don't feel close to You. Help me see You again.”
 4. **KEEP LOOKING FOR GOD IN EVERY DAY LIFE**
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- Jesus might already be speaking through:
 - Scripture
 - A trusted leader or friend
 - A worship song
 - The little “uneventful” moments of the day where we can experience His grace.
 - Stay open. Keep walking even if it feels quiet.

5. WALK WITH OTHERS

- Talk to someone. You don't need to carry questions alone.
- That's why we do small groups.
- Pray and dismiss to groups...

PRAYER:

- Lead students in a time of reflection and response. You can pray:
“Jesus, thank You for being with us even when we feel far from You. Help us trust You, even in our questions. Open our eyes to see where You're walking with us. Amen.”