



SERIES: ACTS - WHEN THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN
MESSAGE TITLE: DAZED AND CONFUSED

SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS
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MESSAGE SUMMARY

BIBLICAL TEXT(S): *Acts 17:6, Luke 24:13-35*

In the coming weeks, we'll be diving into the book of Acts. However, the book of Acts is a sequel to the book of Luke. In order to set us up for the coming series, Pastor Brad looks at an important story at the end of the book of Luke: the story of two disciples on the road to Emmaus.

Jesus' earliest disciples were trapped in a tension: a tension between being a part of the diaspora (Jews scattered throughout the world waiting for the restoration of Israel's Kingdom) and being a part of the empire. Christians in every age have been trapped in a similar tension. In the book of Acts, we will discover that there is a third way of living within this world. This story from the book of Luke sets the stage for that new way. We'll see with those early followers that Jesus is not what the disciples expected. He is much more.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably

LEAN IN

These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. How do you feel about taking walks? If you like them, what do you like about it? If you don't, what makes you not enjoy them?
2. What comes to your mind when you think of the phrase "upside down"?
3. What is one thing you got to do this week that you wouldn't have done (or that wouldn't have been as exciting) if we weren't sheltering in place?
4. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week? What's one that you are dreading?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. Where were the two disciples in this passage going? What were they doing as they were walking?
2. Who joined them on their journey? Did they recognize him? What does he ask them?

cont.

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3. How do the disciples describe Jesus in verse 19? What does this and their other statements tell you about their beliefs about Jesus?
4. How does Jesus describe them in verse 25? How might the disciples have felt about this description? What does Jesus do for them?
5. When do the disciples finally recognize Jesus? What is their response to this moment?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. In this passage, Jesus was walking with the disciples long before they recognized him. How have you seen Jesus at work in the lives of others, before they even know it's him?
2. The disciples thought Jesus' work was over and they were discouraged. How are people in our world today experiencing the same thing? What disappointments are they facing in our present crisis? What dreams, hopes, or plans may have come crashing down?
3. The disciples in this passage believed some things about Jesus that were true, but they didn't yet have the whole picture of who Jesus was. What kind of an incomplete understanding of Jesus do people have today?
4. Jesus takes the time to explain to these disciples how what had happened was a fulfillment of the Scriptures. How have you seen people doing a good job today of explaining Jesus and his work to those who don't yet know or fully understand him? How have you seen people do a poor job of this?
5. How do people in our modern world respond to Jesus when they truly see him? You can give both positive and negative examples.

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. Will you share a time when it seemed like Jesus had abandoned you but looking back you can see his presence? What was that like?
2. What disappointments are you currently facing? What about our present circumstances causes you to worry or to despair?
3. How has Jesus improved your understanding of who he is in your life? Is there any area where you are currently learning something new about Jesus? What does that look like?

cont.

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4. How would you rate yourself on your ability to explain who Jesus is to someone who doesn't yet know him or doesn't fully know him? What might you do to improve your skills in this area?
5. When you know Jesus is at work in your life, how do you respond? How does your response compare to the response of the disciples in this story?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. How can your group pray for you as you seek to continue hoping in Jesus, even in the midst of disappointment, worry, and fear? Are there any practical needs that your group can help you with this week? Don't be afraid to share them.
2. Where do you see Jesus working in your life right now? How can your group pray for and encourage you this week in that journey?
3. What can you do this week to improve your understanding of who Jesus is so you would feel more confident explaining it to a friend? Ask your group if they know of any resources that might help you.

Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the ADT team this week for notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes, which normally appear on the following page.

