



SERMON STUDY

GUIDE

Small Group Guide: Luke 24.13-35

Open with Prayer:

Sermon Summary:

Two disciples walked away from Jerusalem carrying shattered expectations and a Jesus they had shaped to fit their hopes. As they walked, the risen Christ joined them unrecognized, listened to their grief, opened the Scriptures to them, and finally revealed Himself at the breaking of bread. The sermon asked a hard question: **What happens when we make Jesus into an idol?** It reminded us that the risen Christ is no longer known through physical sight but through the ordinary means of grace, prayer, the Word, and the Table, the same means the early church devoted themselves to in Acts 2.42.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read Luke 24.13-16 together. What do you think it felt like for these disciples to walk away from Jerusalem? Have you ever been on a similar road, walking away from hope?
2. The sermon described an idol as a version of Jesus shaped by our desires and expectations. What does your version of Jesus look like when disappointment has been doing the shaping?
3. In Luke 24.16, their eyes were kept from recognizing Him. Jesus was present before He was perceived. How does that truth change the way you think about prayer in a dry or painful season?
4. Jesus let them process their grief before He opened the Scriptures (Luke 24.17-27). Why do you think He did that? What does that tell us about how God meets us in pain?
5. The Word corrected them before it comforted them. Can you think of a time when Scripture challenged a false version of Jesus you were holding onto?
6. Their eyes were opened not on the road during Bible study, but at the table (Luke 24.30-31). Why do you think recognition came there? What does that say about Communion?
7. Acts 2.42 shows the early church organized around teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. Which of these do you most take for granted, and why?

Key Takeaways:

- Jesus is present before He is perceived. He is already on the road with you, whether your eyes are open to Him or not.
- The Word does not just comfort you. It corrects you. It tears down the idol before it rebuilds the hope.
- Cherry picking Scripture produces a Jesus you created. The whole Bible reveals the Jesus who is.
- The risen Christ shows up in ordinary means: Prayer, Word, and Table are not rituals. They are where He has promised to meet you.

This Week:

- This week, pick one book of the Bible you have never read from beginning to end and read the entire thing in one sitting if possible, or across several days.
- As you read, ask **one question**: what does this tell me about *who Jesus actually is*?
- Bring one thing you discovered back to share with your group next week.