

## Westover Baptist Church Virtual Sunday School Lesson

Lesson text: Luke 24:13-35

### On the Road to Emmaus

<sup>13</sup> Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup> but they were kept from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

<sup>19</sup> "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup> but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

<sup>33</sup> They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

### **Reflection:**

Our lesson text opens on the same day that Jesus rose from the tomb. The two disciples are most likely returning home to Emmaus. As they walk they are discussing everything that has taken place in the past few days. No doubt that news of Jesus death had spread throughout the region, and so has the rumor that he had risen from the grave. Some did not believe the rumors. At this point in Luke's gospel no one has seen the resurrected Christ.

The two disciples were processing everything as they walked the road to Emmaus. Jesus suddenly appears and begins walking with them along the road but the disciples do not recognize him. These two disciples do not recognize Jesus even though they were walking right beside him. Perhaps there are places in our life where Jesus joins us and yet we do not recognize his presence with us.

The two disciples didn't recognize Jesus until they broke bread together. Where, when and how do you experience the presence of the living God?

One of the most common themes that appear in Luke's gospel is that of perception, or more frequently, misperception. People who followed Jesus and his ministry frequently misperceived who he was and what God was doing through his ministry. The two disciples on the road to Emmaus did not originally recognize Jesus but soon realized that the risen Christ was indeed with them as they travelled to Emmaus.

After encountering Jesus, the two disciples go on to be witnesses to the rest of the disciples. Their experience and witness plays a critical role in spreading the good news of the gospel message. How can your experience of the risen Christ lead you to a more faithful witness to the rest of the world?