

W/B 26th July 2015

AN EYE OPENING JOURNEY by Dave Smith from his book, *40 days with Jesus*

INTRO

In this session we are going to look at the appearance of Jesus on the road to Emmaus and consider these two principles:

1. Our vision of Jesus **can be blurred**
2. Our vision of Jesus **can be corrected**

READ

Luke 24:13-35, encouraging everyone to follow along in their own Bibles.

The more translations the better as each may highlight something different.

Now allow the whole group the opportunity to share what stood out anew to them and why.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the mood of the disciples at the beginning of this passage?
How has their vision of Jesus become blurred?
- *Note to leader: By despair (vv17-18), by disappointment (v21), by doubt (vv22-24).*
2. God is not distant in our despair, but comes to meet us right in the midst of it. Have you experienced particular times in your life when, looking back, you realise Jesus' presence was with you but you didn't recognise Him?
3. In verses 25-27 how does Jesus begin to 'correct the disciples' vision'? How often do we look to God's Word in our daily lives to help us correct our own vision?
4. Read verse 32. How is our experience of reading the Scriptures so often different?
Why might this be?
5. Jesus continued to reveal Himself to the disciples by eating with them.
Compare Luke 24:30-31 with Genesis 3:1-7.
What are the differences between these two accounts?
What had the disciples' eyes now been opened to?
What is the significance of this on our relationship with God?

SHARE YOUR STORY

You can discuss the following questions together as one group or, if individuals prefer, you could split into groups of twos or threes.

6. **How have you come to know Jesus** better over recent weeks through a fresh consideration of the cross, and Jesus' amazing sacrifice. Share together your thoughts as to why Jesus is special to you.

- 7. How do you approach the Bible?** Do you use it as a moral guide or for encouragement? How much is it about building the portrait and revealing the personality of our Lord Jesus Christ? Have you had times when reading it made your heart burn within (Luke 24:32)?
- 8. How much do you want Jesus' presence to stay with you?** The disciples urged Him strongly to stay with them (Luke 24:29). Are you hungry for more of the Spirit of Jesus in your life? What would it mean for you to invite Him in afresh?

PRAY TOGETHER

Take the time to invite the Holy Spirit, perhaps begin with prayers of worship and thanksgiving, then you may choose to follow these suggestions for specific prayer:

You could pray:

- for individuals [name them in your hearts if not aloud] in your neighbourhoods or networks who do not know Jesus. Pray that their eyes would be opened to see Him
- against the blinding that Satan causes
- for people to see God through the works of Christians and the Church
- for individuals in the group who need eye-opening guidance
- that every person in your group would see Jesus afresh today
- that when you read and study the Bible in the future, you will know a fresh sense of Jesus' presence opening up the Scriptures to you personally, as He did with those disciples on the road to Emmaus.