

YOU matter to GOD

A Bible study

based on *The Road to Emmaus* video.

The study is designed to coordinate with the worship themes
at Siloah Ev. Lutheran Church during the 2017 Easter season

Copies of *The Road to Emmaus* video are available at Siloah or online at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QKra-YoIic>

Lesson One: Jesus' Resurrection Proves You Matter to God
There's a Place You Can Find Answers: HOPE

Read Luke 24:13-24 (Video time: 2:00-7:00)

Over 2000 years ago two followers of Jesus walked along a road to their hometown of Emmaus discussing the recent events. "I can't believe it happened," they said. "It doesn't make sense." Their hope for the future had been replaced by confusion, upset, and fear.

Lesson Background:

Jesus' crucifixion

- Matthew 26:36-Matthew 27:66

1. What was it about Good Friday that the Emmaus disciples could not understand?
2. Analyze the ways Jesus showed the disciples that they mattered to him while walking on the road to Emmaus.
3. Read Luke 24:25-26 out loud with the accent and tone of voice you think Jesus might have said these words. Explain why you chose that approach.
4. Determine why Jesus directed the two Emmaus disciples to the Scriptures (*Moses and the Prophets*) instead of just giving them the answers.
5. God has assured us we have a place to find answers to the questions and uncertainties of life. That place is in his Word. What do these Scriptures tell us about the Bible?
 - 2 Timothy 3:15-17, *From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*
 - 2 Peter 1:15-21, *We did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain. We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*
6. No matter what our confusion, upset, and fear, how is it that we find hope in the Scriptures? Compare your answer to 1 Peter 1:3-4 below.
7. Develop a plan to increase your time and attention to taking an "Emmaus walk" with Jesus each day by listening to God's words of insight, encouragement, and hope for you.

HOPE

1 Peter 1:3-4, 23. Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you... For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

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Lesson Two: Jesus' Resurrection Proves You Matter to God

There's a Promise for You: PEACE

Read Luke 24:18-27 (Video time: 7:00-12:20)

God's original world was completely perfect. It had none of the evil, sadness, pain, or death we experience today. It displayed the glory and love of God. In it the peace and joy of relationships between individuals and their Creator was fully realized.

Lesson Background:

Adam and Noah

- Creation , Genesis 2
- Origin and impact of sin, Genesis 3
- God protects Noah, Genesis 8
- God's promise: "I will set my rainbow in the clouds," Genesis 9:9-16

1. How did Adam and Eve's sin transform God's perfect world? How did their sin rob the world of peace? See Romans 5:12.
2. Explain how Genesis 3:15 is a description of the Savior: The LORD told Satan, *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*
3. Based on the following Scriptures, provide two reasons God does not wipe out all the evil people: Romans 3: 10-12 and 2 Peter 3:9.
4. Study Luke 17:26,27, 30. How does Jesus explain God's purpose in destroying the world through Noah's flood?
 - *"Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.... It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed."* (Compare 2 Peter 3:3-7.)
5. Since we can never do enough good to satisfy God's anger over our sin, what did God do to bring about peace between us according to Romans 5:1,2 below and Ephesians 2:1-5?
 - *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*
6. Write two sentences to depict how Jesus brings peace into your life. Look for ways to use those sentences in conversations this week.

Peace

Romans 5:1-2. Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

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Lesson Three: Jesus' Resurrection Proves You Matter to God

There's a Plan Designed for You: FAITH AND TRUST

(Video time: 12:20-13:45)

As Jesus' two disciples walked to Emmaus they were full of doubts and misgivings. We experience those moments, too. How often we struggle to understand the past and present. It's particularly at those times that Jesus' resurrection calls us to faith and urges us to trust in him. Abraham is an example of such faith and trust.

Lesson background: Abraham

- Abraham's call, Genesis 12:1-9
- God's covenant, Genesis 15:1-6
- The covenant confirmed, Genesis 17:1-8
- The incredible birth, Genesis 21:1-7

1. List the promises God made to Abraham in these verses:
 - Genesis 12:2,3, *"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."*
 - Based on these passages, what was the ultimate way God blessed Abraham? What is the ultimate way God blesses us?
 - Galatians 3:7-9, *Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.*
 - Galatians 3:16, *The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say 'and to seeds,' meaning many people, but 'and to your seed,' meaning one person, who is Christ.*
2. Read Romans 4:20-25. Abraham trusted God's seemingly impossible promise to give him a son and through that son to bring the Savior into the world. Why did Abraham trust God?
 - *[Abraham] did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness." The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone, but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*
 - How does Jesus' resurrection provide us with the best reason to trust God's promises?
 - What situations are you encountering that call for resurrection-based faith and trust?

Faith
and
Trust

Hebrews 11:1,8,9. Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for.... By faith Abraham... made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country.

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Lesson Four: Jesus' Resurrection Proves You Matter to God

There's a Pardon Prepared for You: FREEDOM

(Video time: 13:45-18:55)

We bristle at the thought of slavery, yet it still continues to happen around the world. Countless people today long for freedom from chains, abuse, and oppression. But there is a worse slavery that impacts everyone. This slavery is an internal slavery that forces us to do what sin demands. From this slavery we cannot escape by our own power.

To be set free we need what Jesus' resurrection guarantees he has won for us.

1. God used Moses to release Israel from her slavery in Egypt. But at Mt. Sinai God showed his people there was another slavery they still needed to be freed from: slavery to sin. How did the Ten Commandments demonstrate to them that they were still enslaved? See Romans 3:19,20.
2. The Ten Commandments show that we all need someone greater than Moses to rescue us from sin's slavery. Jesus is the person. John 1:17 compares Moses and Jesus. It says, *The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.* Name some ways the purpose of Moses' ministry was different than Jesus' ministry. Hebrews 3:1-6 provides some examples.
3. John the Baptist identified Jesus as the *lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world* (John 1:29). How is Jesus like the Passover lamb? [Read about the Passover in Exodus 12.]
 - Compare Revelation 7:17, *The Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.*
3. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-25. How is Lord's Supper a teaching about Jesus as the Passover Lamb?
 - *The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.'*
4. God used Moses to give us his laws so we know we don't live up to his demands for perfection. In Jesus he provided us with pardon for our sins against his laws and release of sin's slavery. What do these passages say about our pardon and freedom in Christ?
 - 1 John 4:9,10, *This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*
 - Galatians 5:1, *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free.*
 - Ephesians 1:7-8 (printed below).

Lesson background: Moses

- The slavery in Egypt, Exodus 1:6-16
- Moses' call to lead, Exodus 3:1-10
- The Passover, Exodus 12
- Crossing the Red Sea, Exodus 14
- Giving the law at Mt Sinai, Exodus 20:1-19
- Sacrifices for sin, Leviticus 4

FREEDOM

Ephesians 1:7-8. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

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Lesson Five: Jesus' Resurrection Proves You Matter to God

There's a Power Released for You: BOLDNESS

Read Luke 24:28-32 (Video time: 18:55-25:12).

There are often times we feel powerless, vulnerable, and fragile. Sometimes it's because others seem to have control over us; other times it's because of circumstances or personal weakness. In those situations we need the boldness that Jesus' resurrection gives us.

King David's reign was marked by a warrior's boldness. It was also marked by bold sin. But David's life was transformed by God's bold grace. David was an important figure in the Old Testament. But more important was David's Savior.

Lesson background: David

- Anointed King, 1 Samuel 16
- Rescues from Goliath, 1 Samuel 17
- Brings the Ark to Jerusalem, 2 Samuel 6
- Sins gravely, 2 Samuel 11-12
- Writes a song of praise, 2 Samuel 22

1. God promised King David that the Savior would be his descendant. *The days are coming,* declares the LORD, *"when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land (Jeremiah 23:5).* When the angel Gabriel came to Mary, he told her that her child *will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David (Luke 1:32).* How would the Savior be a better king than David?
2. Read Isaiah 52:1,2,3-53:12. What events of King Jesus' life are prophesied here? What kind of a king would he be?
3. What does the following passage reveal about King Jesus?
 - Romans 1:1-4, *Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*
4. Consider the three passages at the bottom of this page. What do we learn there about the boldness Jesus' resurrection provides us?
5. The two Emmaus disciples show a great deal of boldness after they realized they had met the risen Christ. Comment on how Easter emboldens you to live your faith and to share its message.

BOLDNESS

Philippians 3:10. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection....

2 Timothy 1:7. God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Philippians 4:13. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

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Lesson Six: Jesus' Resurrection Proves You Matter to God

There's a Reason You Exist: PURPOSE

Read Luke 24:3-49 (Video time: 25:12-30:00).

For most of Easter day it seemed to Jesus' disciples that they had lost their purpose in life. Their Savior had died on Friday. His promises of forgiveness, God's love, and eternal life apparently died with him.

That all changed when Jesus appeared to his disciples on Easter evening. "Peace be with you," he told them. "You have peace: peace of soul, peace with God, peace with yourself." Then he commissioned his disciples to be about the business of sharing that peace with the world.

Forty days later, on Ascension Day, he affirmed his commission. "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Jesus' resurrection makes our purpose in life clear. We are to witness to the truth that the Messiah has come into world as God promised. We are to testify that Jesus is that Messiah. We are to tell others that through Jesus our sins are forgiven and eternal happiness is ours in heaven.

1. Some of the most convincing evidence that Jesus is our Savior is the way he fulfilled the hundreds of Old Testament prophecies about Messiah. How did he fulfill the following prophecies: Exodus 12:21-23; Psalm 22:1,7,8; Isaiah 9:6,7; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 53:4,5,7,9,10.
2. Why were Jesus' first words to his disciples important?
 - John 20:21, Jesus said, *"Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.... Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."*
3. How were Jesus' disciples transformed after they pieced together the evidences that Jesus is the promised Savior? How are we transformed because we know what those disciples knew?
4. Ephesians 2:8-10 (below) tells us that in Christ we are created to do good works. Comment on how 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 describes our purpose in life. Provide examples of living out that purpose.
 - *If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Lesson background: Purpose

- Ambassadors, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21.
- God's handiwork, Ephesians 2:8-10,
- Forgivers, John 20:21
- Witnesses, Acts 1:8

PURPOSE

Ephesians 2:8-10. It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

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Luke 24: The Resurrection

The Resurrection is discovered

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. 5 In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? 6 He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ “ 8 Then they remembered his words.

9 When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. 10 It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. 12 Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

The Emmaus disciples encounter Jesus

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

17 He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 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?”

19 “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. 20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21 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. 22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23 but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. 24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

Jesus instructs the Emmaus disciples

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

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. 29 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.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 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?”

The Emmaus disciples share their discovery

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

Jesus' disciples encounter the risen Savior

36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.

44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things. 49 I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Colossians 1:3-6

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints—the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth.

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