

Apostles Houston
Life Group Study: Luke 24:36-49

Love and Laughter

Creating a Sacred Space

Welcome→ Embrace→ Refresh

Remembering Our Purpose

Why Do We Do Life Groups? *(feel free to communicate this in your own words)*

In Acts 2, we read how early Christ followers devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. In Life Groups we follow their example with the hope of becoming more like Jesus, the goal of our salvation.

Being Known

Story Telling

We believe that loving God and others begins by being known.

In 5-7 minutes, what do you want us to know about yourself (~5Hs)?

Pray and Celebrate

Be sure to honor whatever is good or beautiful about their story, and ask one or two people to pray over those who just shared.

Following Up

Responding to God's Word

In our last meeting, we were encouraged to spend time in prayer, contemplating an encounter with the risen Jesus just as his disciples did? What was that like for you?

Hearing the Word

Hearing: (*Read "Context" and then Luke 24:36-49. Then pray for God's grace to understand.*)

- Before we dive in, what are some big themes that stand out to you as significant in this passage? Or from the sermon this past weekend?
- In v 39, Jesus sought to assuage the disciples' fear and disbelief by presenting his nail-pierced hands as evidence that he was alive, risen from the dead. With respect to the gospel, why does it matter that Jesus was physically risen from the dead (as opposed to just spiritually raised)? With respect to the disciples' faith, why does it matter? Even today, we experience Christ physically through his body, the church. How has the church affected your relationship with him?
- In v 44-47, Jesus shows the disciples from Scripture God's plan for the Messiah to suffer death on a cross and then be resurrected. As people who knew the Scriptures already, what do you think was different about Jesus' reading of Scripture? Why do you think they couldn't see these things before? How has Scripture impacted your faith in Christ?
- In v 49, Jesus commands the disciples to wait on the promised Holy Spirit whom he was to send to after his ascension. How is this encounter with God (Holy Spirit) different from the other two encounters? What is the purpose of this kind of encounter? What has your experience with the Holy Spirit been like?

Obeying (application):

- Even to this day, the risen Christ desires to meet with us personally, to assuage our fears and disbeliefs, and to empower us as witnesses for him in the world. This week, make a plan to meet with him in at least one of the three ways we have discussed tonight, and come ready to share your encounter next week. As a group, discuss practical ways you can practice all three.

Soul Care

Prayer Requests

This week, break up into groups of MEN and WOMEN for prayer. Along with sharing prayer needs, create some space for confession. Pray for God's grace to repent and be forgiven/healed.

Announcements: Volunteers needed for VBS (July 22-25), including opportunities to serve the Saturday before (set up). Email sarah@apostleshouston.org to sign up.

Teacher's Notes

Context and Key Theme

- This week's lesson is similar to last week's. In fact, it's the same story told from Luke's perspective, of the disciples encountering the risen Christ after all their hopes had been dashed on the rocks of his cross. As we read, the key theme to be on the lookout for are the different ways they encountered Jesus, and how that impacted their faith.

Specific Insights

- As it pertains to the gospel, the physical resurrection of Jesus is important because it evidenced the beginning of new creation. Throughout the prophets, God was on record for promising a day when a new world would be birthed out of the old, where the knowledge of God would cover the earth as the waters cover the seas, and where God would dwell with His people without the presence of sin and death. The physical resurrection of Jesus, in an imperishable body, was evidence that God had begun to make good on that promise. In other words, because Jesus has been raised physically from the dead, we can have confidence that death will not have the last word: Christ has trampled down death by death; and we who are in Christ will be raised with him when he returns to finish what began on Easter morning.
- Despite the fact that the disciples would have known much of the Old Testament by heart, they were unable to see how the story God was telling would climax in the passion of Christ. One reason for this could have been that there were multiple trajectories the story could have taken, and maybe the story of the cross and resurrection just seemed the least plausible. But more likely, as Paul says in 2 Corinthians 3:15, it was because "their hearts [were] covered with a veil, and they [could not] understand." This "veil" that Paul spoke of, is the veil that lies over everyone's heart who has not yet turned to Christ and been delivered from the powers of sin and death that keep them blind from the truth. In other words, to understand the meaning of the Scriptures, we have to have the help of the Spirit. Only then, can we understand that the Bible is a story that leads to Jesus, which is what Jesus would have helped them see in his "bible study" with the disciples.
- What's different about this final encounter with the Spirit, is that it is an unmediated experience with the person of God. The church, though his body, is still a mediated encounter with Christ. The Scriptures, though his word, is also a mediated experience. Through both, "we see as through a glass darkly" (1 Cor 13:12). But the Holy Spirit, referred to as "the Spirit of Jesus" in the book of *Acts*, is an unmediated experience with Christ that gives us assurance that we belong to him, and we will be raised with him upon his return.