**CONNECT GROUP STUDY**

The surprise ending of the Gospel story--Jesus is raised to life. He appears first to Mary Magdalene, then to two disciples walking in the country, and finally to the disciples. No one would have ever guessed the ending—It’s the ultimate surprise ending! Jesus is alive! In Jesus, you can have a new life!

**Big Idea:** The resurrection of Jesus changes everything.

**CONNECT:** Can you think of a time you had a spiritual “light bulb moment” where you were struck with a realization you believed was from God?

**EXPLORE:**

1.     Read Luke 24:13-35 aloud.

2.     When you read this story, what do you think is the significance of the disciples not recognizing Jesus until they sat down to eat with him?

3.     Why do you think Jesus “slow-plays” his interaction with the disciples by not revealing who he is?

4.     Even after they had received word of the resurrection, Jesus’ disciples were still having a hard time processing the information. Many of them needed to have a personal encounter with the Resurrected Jesus before they could understand what had taken place. What do you think this says about our Christianity? Is it possible to believe in Jesus but not “experience” him?

**APPLY:**

1.     Sometimes there is a gap in our lives between what we want God to do and what actually happens. How do you process these types of disappointments?

2.     Can you think of a time that God used one of these disappointments to actually put you in the place he wants you?

3.     By what means does God typically use in order to speak to you in your life?

4.     What role does scripture play in helping you to understand difficult circumstances?

**PRAYER:**

*If the goal of prayer is a real, personal connection with God, then it is only by immersion in the language of the bible that we will learn to pray, perhaps just as slowly as a child learns to speak.*

*~Tim Keller*



**Empty Tomb – No More Empty Life**

*April 12, 2015*

*Steve Beeman, Community Care Pastor*

**Luke 24:13-35**

**The Road to Emmaus**

1. **The Background and the Characters**

The Third Day -- Sunday

Who was Cleopas?

* Also named Clopas
* Also named Alphaeus (Luke 6:15); may be the father of James, the Son of Alphaeus.
* The husband of Mary of Clopas (John 19:25)
* Father of Simon, who eventually pastored the church in Jerusalem after James, the half-brother of Jesus. He may be Jesus' uncle (Joseph's brother).

"But they were kept from recognizing him." Luke 24:6

* Loss
* Betrayal
* Death
* Despair
* Reticular Activating System
* God

*Notes available via the live feature on YouVersion.com*

1. **When Christ is Hidden**

God tests us. 2 Chronicles 32:31

God encourages us. 2 Kings 6:15-16

God teaches us. Acts 9:8-9

To show us himself, to learn, to activate our spiritual senses.

1. **How God Works in Opening our Eyes**

He asks the right questions. Luke 24:17, 19

He waits to hear the story (it's not for him, it's for you). Luke 24:19-24

He uses the Word of God. Luke 24:25-27

He waits for you to initiate closeness. Luke 24:28-30

(Isaiah 42:7) (Ephesians 1:17-19)

For further reading:

<http://www.oneplace.com/ministries/the-bible-study-hour/read/articles/the-way-to-emmaus-12292.html>

<http://www.prevention.com/health/brain-health/how-your-brain-reacts-grief>

<http://www.reticularactivatingsystem.org>

NOTES