

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of April 8, 2018

“Eyes Wide Open” Pastor Temple 8:15, 9:30 Pastor Hall 11

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Is there anything that came up this past week in regard to the previous witness or application points that you would like to share? (Sounds Like Nonsense To Me, Luke 24:1-12)
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- How do you normally deal with disappointment? A- talk with a friend, B- just bear with the sadness until it passes, C- go shopping, D- eat comfort food, E- talk with God about it or F- something else?

Review the Sermon (25 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Luke 24:13-35. As you go through the discussion questions, it is ok to skip questions in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] 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.” 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. 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?”

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?
- Why do you believe that at first, Cleopas and the other disciple did not recognize that stranger walking with them was Jesus?
- What were they talking about? Why was this conversation ironic or humorous?
- What eventually led to their eyes being opened to who the stranger was?
- What do verses 25-27 and 32 reveal about Jesus regard for and use of the scriptures?
- How do you see small group ministry and the first sharing in the Lord's Supper of the Christian Church in these verses?
- Would a volunteer please read out loud 1 Corinthians 15:3-8. What are the essential aspects of the gospel that the apostle Paul claims here is of "first importance?"
- Why are the various appearances of Christ emphasized here through repetition?
- Why would Paul refer to himself as one abnormally born in verse 8? What is the normal way?

Personalize the Sermon (15 min)

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon?
- Is there a time you could share about when Christ was with you but you did not perceive it or feel His presence with you at the time?
- The two disciples ran all the way back to Jerusalem to share the news about Jesus with God's people. When has Christian joy and exuberance led you to be spontaneous and jump on an opportunity to glorify God in some way?
- What would be your story or version of Christ's story that you would share with others if the circumstances were right?

Apply the Sermon (15-20 min)

- How might Jesus inhabit our conversations more this week?
- How might we be more perceptive to Christ's presence among us this week?
- If God is the one who removes the blinders on those who seek Him, how might we position ourselves better to receive spiritual sight and knowledge from Him this week?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- If person to person sharing of the story of Jesus is the normal way that people are born spiritually, to whom or how might you share the good news Jesus Christ is risen and is Lord?
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.