

# Pressures

## On the Road to Emmaus

### SHATTERED DREAMS

#### Introduction

In this Bible study, we want you to listen to the experience of two followers of Jesus who may have lost hope and decided to return home.

It is right after the resurrection of Jesus, but these two followers are still sad and confused. Listen in on their conversation as Jesus comes alongside of them and lets them talk about their disappointment and shattered dreams. Then, move quickly into groups of 4 and discuss the questionnaire.

1. If you got some really bad news today, where would you go to get yourself together?

#### ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

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

<sup>17</sup>He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup>One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

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

but him they did not see."

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

<sup>28</sup>As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup>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.

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

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

Luke 24:13-35



2. Why didn't the two disciples in this story recognize Jesus when he joined them?
  - They were preoccupied.
  - They were depressed.
  - They couldn't recognize Jesus in his resurrected body.
  - They refused to believe their eyes.
  - God kept them from recognizing him.
3. When did you last experience a broken dream or a broken heart?
4. What is the closest you have come to "throwing in the towel" and giving up on your relationship with God?
5. What was it that brought you back to faith?

6. What did you learn during that time you were away from God?
- It's lonely out there.
  - God never leaves you alone.
  - It's okay to struggle.
  - Once you've given your heart to God, God is going to be more visible.
  - There is always a way home.
7. What helps you recognize Jesus alongside you when you are down?
- taking time to be alone with God
  - talking with someone who cares
  - reading Scripture
  - getting away from the situation
  - focusing on worship
  - fellowshipping with others
  - other: \_\_\_\_\_
8. What does the resurrected Jesus need to change in your life?
- my spiritual vision
  - my unbelief
  - my discouragement
  - my loneliness
  - my disillusionment
  - other: \_\_\_\_\_
9. How would you describe your "walk" with Christ right now?
- |                                      |                                       |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> up and down | <input type="checkbox"/> growing      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> very close  | <input type="checkbox"/> slipping     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> blah        | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> exciting    |                                       |
10. If Jesus showed up at your meeting today, what would he likely say to you personally? To your group?
11. How can the group pray for you?