

DISCUSSION GUIDE

APRIL 11/12, 2020 - EASTER

WHEN HOPE RUNS OUT - NOW WHAT?

LUKE 24

Note to Leaders: Every group is different, please choose the questions that relate best to your particular group.

FOR STARTERS

1. How was Good Friday and Easter different this year? What did you miss? Did you start a new tradition? Do you like anything better?
2. Check in with everybody to see how they are REALLY doing!

DIGGING IN

Read Luke 24:13-35.

1. Looking at the text, what words could you use to describe Cleopas and his companion?
2. Cleopas and his friend tell Jesus that they ran out of hope when Jesus was killed. They missed the part of the Messiah suffering. Look back at Luke 18:31-34 and note what Jesus repeatedly shared. See also Luke 9:22 and Luke 9:43b-45.
3. How does Jesus reset their expectations in verses 25-27?
 - a. What is Jesus teaching us on how we should read and understand the Bible, including the Old Testament?
 - b. In verse 32, in response to Jesus' amazing Bible study, they commented that their hearts were burning within them. Try and describe what they were feeling.
4. Jesus prevented them from recognizing Him and then opened their eyes. Notice He opened their eyes after He opened up their understanding of the Bible. Why was that important for them and why is that important for us today? (i.e. That Jesus' death and resurrection was all according to God's plan.)

5. When they finally recognize Him, had their eyes opened, Jesus vanished. Notice no one is sitting on this good news. The women run to the upper room and Cleopas and his buddy go back to Jerusalem. What did Jesus tell the other disciples to do with the news of Easter? Look at Luke 24:45-49 and Acts 1:8.

BRINGING IT HOME

1. How's your supply of hope right now? How is God using the Easter story this year to rekindle and/or replenish your hope?
2. It's interesting to note the first skeptics and doubters of the resurrection were His followers. Pay attention to how Jesus handled their doubts and how does that help us dialogue with skeptics today? What can we learn from Jesus' approach?
3. What would it look like for us to be powerful in word and deed like Jesus, filled with grace and truth? In what ways can we encourage each other to have a more-bold witness for Christ?
4. If Jesus' unjust sufferings on the cross was part of God's plan, how should that change our response to difficulty and suffering, including the crisis we're all in today?

GOING DEEPER

1. Study Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53 to see how Jesus' suffering was all part of God's plan.
2. Memorize, read and meditate on this scripture: "But 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

PRAYER REQUESTS

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