



OPENING QUESTIONS

Why would you say you love Jesus? From a Biblical perspective, is your answer a legitimate one? Why or why not? What are the potential answers to this question?

CONTEXT

Everything in life has a starting point. You begin school when you enroll. Marriage begins when two people get married. A road begins the moment you pull out of the driveway. Our journey of following Jesus – what we call **discipleship** – has a starting point as well. This week's study takes a look at the dynamics of the starting point of discipleship. To understand this, we look at a story involving Jesus and two of His disciples that took place at the end of the gospel of Luke. It's a story often referred to as "The Walk to Emmaus". This story has much to teach us, so let's dig in.

BIG IDEA

The starting place of true discipleship is the cross.

READ TOGETHER

Read **Luke 24:13-35** as a group by going around the circle and having as many group members as possible read a paragraph.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Review the content of verses 13-24. Where does this story fit into the timeline of Jesus' life on earth? What's the answer to Jesus' question in verse 19 where He asks the question "**What things?**"
- 2) Why is the content of verse 18 as well as the question Jesus posed in verse 19 ironic?
- 3) Read verses 25 and 26. What is Jesus' response to the sadness (verse 17) on the faces of these two disciples?
- 4) Read verse 27. What is the gift that Jesus gives to these disciples to help them on their discipleship journey?
- 5) In the same way as Jesus would have done with these disciples on the road to Emmaus, visit the following Old Testament passages and identify what they reveal to us about the Messiah who is to come (called **prophecies**). Then read what the New Testament says about the fulfillment of those prophecies:
 - Psalm 22:1-2 and Matthew 27:46
 - Psalm 118:22-24 and 1 Peter 2:6-8
 - Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:22-23
 - Isaiah 35:5-6 and Matthew 11:4-6
 - Isaiah 53:1-7 and Matthew 27:32-44
- 6) You just experienced the "what the prophets wrote and predicted in the Scriptures" that Jesus pointed out in verse 27. What does Jesus say that these things teach us in verse 26?
- 7) So why did Jesus have to die? Read Romans 3:35, 1 John 2:2 and 1 John 4:10.

- 8) As a result of accepting Christ's death on our behalf, we are told in Scripture that we know God. What does 1 John 2:3-6 reveal to us about those who know God? What should be true of those who live in God?
- 9) So the cross where Christ died for us and allowed us to know God is crucial to being disciples of Jesus. What does Philippians 2:5-11 tell us should be our response to what we received as a result of Christ's death on the cross?
- 10) Ask each member of the group to answer the question: **What does the cross mean to me today?**

CHALLENGE

Here's a great challenge for you this week. Find an opportunity to tell someone in your world about what the cross means to you. Come back prepared next week to share who you chose to share with and how it felt sharing that.

PRAYER

Take time to pray for each group member for any needs they have, along with asking God to give them eyes to see who they could share about the cross with this week.

NEXT STEPS

This week's suggestion for further study is to take time to read Ravi Zacharias' little book **The Lotus and the Cross**. This small volume (under 100 pages) written by a well-known Christian apologist, imagines a conversation involving Jesus, Buddha, and a prostitute. The intent is to highlight the essential differences between Christianity as taught by Jesus and Buddhism. This will help any Christ-follower engage in conversation with others about the nature of their faith with the cross being central to what followers of Christ believe.