

Home Group notes for the week following Sunday 4th May 2014

THEME: ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

As we Gather

On the day of resurrection – the first Lord's Day – Jesus showed Himself to a number of His followers in different places. He lifted their hearts, giving them new life and purpose (Romans 6:4 and Galatians 2:20), as His presence affirmed His claim that He is the Son of God (Romans 1:4).

Reading Scripture **LUKE 24 : 13 - 35**

Thinking together

On the evening of the resurrection day two of Jesus' followers were walking home to Emmaus, a small village some 11 km from Jerusalem. In spite of having heard the evidence of the empty tomb and the witness of the women who had seen and spoken with Jesus, they were downhearted and discouraged. All their hopes of Israel being freed from its oppressors had come to nothing (Luke 24:17-24).

Do you sometimes feel like these two did, downhearted and discouraged by events / the frustration of your hopes and plans? Discuss

The two saw Jesus as a prophet (Luke 24:19), hoped He was the Messiah (Luke 24:21), but had missed the significance of the events of the past three days because they had failed to understand the total message of the Old Testament prophecies (Luke 24:25).

The message of the Gospel rests on the death and on the resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:1-8).

Jesus used scripture applied to his ministry to explain why crucifixion had to occur. See Genesis 3:15 Isaiah 53 Zechariah 12:10 Malachi 3:1 Jeremiah 31:31-33

Are you sometimes still puzzled by God's Good News (Romans 4:24-25)? Discuss

What do you do / to whom do you turn, when you do not understand what the Bible means? Discuss

Christ is the thread woven through all the Scriptures. Jesus

- Has the ability to make sense of things so that the meaning of life becomes clear (Luke 24:15-27)
- Has the courtesy not to force Himself on us. We have free will and can choose whether or not we want Him to come into our lives / stay with us (Luke 24:28-29)

Do you start each day by inviting Jesus to share your day with you? Discuss

- Can be found / recognised in even the routine / mundane activities of daily life (Luke 24:30-31)

Is Jesus a permanent guest in your home, or do you only meet Him at the communion table, where He is the host? Discuss

The two disciples were so overjoyed when they realised they had walked with and listened to Jesus, that they went straight back to Jerusalem (Luke 24:32-33) to tell the others of their experience.

When last could you hardly wait to share with others your experience of an encounter with Christ? Discuss

Back in Jerusalem the disciples all shared together their experiences of being with Christ and discovered that Peter had also met with Him separately (Luke 24:34-35)

**Are our church services joyous gatherings which tell about meeting the living Christ?
Discuss**

In Closing

Christianity is essentially a resurrection religion. A new life lived in relationship with the living Christ.

A Prayer you might like to read

God our companion, you walk behind, beside and beyond us.
You catch us unawares and break through the disillusionment
and despair clouding our vision, so that with wide-eyed wonder,
we may find our way and journey on as messengers of your
good news. Amen