

Because He Lives, Week 3

Discussion Guide

“We Had Hoped” Luke 24:13-35

Leader Setup (Quick Notes for using in a group)

- Read the passage out loud together first
- Let the text drive the conversation
- Don't rush silence, give space for reflection
- Use follow-ups like:
 - “What makes you say that?”
 - “Where do you see that in the text?”
 - “Does anyone want to add or push back?”

PART 1: Setting the Scene (vv. 13-16)

1. What do you notice about where the disciples are going and what they're talking about?
2. Why might Luke include the detail that they are *leaving* Jerusalem?
3. What stands out to you about Jesus' arrival in verse 15–16?
4. Why do you think they don't recognize Him?

Follow-up: What does this suggest about the difference between **Jesus being present** and **being recognized**?

PART 2: Naming Disappointment (vv. 17-24)

5. How does Luke describe the disciples' emotional state in verse 17?
6. When they describe Jesus, what do they say about Him? What is accurate about their description? What might be incomplete?
7. What do you think they meant by: “We had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel”?
8. What does that phrase reveal about their expectations of Jesus?

Follow-up: In what ways can disappointment grow out of sincere faith?

PART 3: Misreading the Story (vv. 25-27)

9. How does Jesus respond to their explanation? What stands out about His tone and words?
10. What does Jesus say was *necessary* in verse 26?
11. Why is the idea of the Messiah's suffering so central to this passage?
12. Verse 27 says Jesus explained "Moses and all the Prophets."
What do you think that means about how we should read the Old Testament?

Follow-up: "The problem is not the story, it's how they're reading the story." Where do you see that in the text?

PART 4: How Jesus is Known (vv. 28-31)

13. Why do the disciples urge Jesus to stay with them?
14. What happens at the table that leads to recognition?
15. Looking at the whole story, what are the key things Jesus does with them before they recognize Him? (Let the group identify: walking, teaching, breaking bread)
16. Why do you think recognition happens *after* those things rather than immediately?

Follow-up: What might this suggest about how we come to know Jesus more clearly in our own lives?

PART 5: Looking Back with New Eyes (vv. 32-35)

17. What do the disciples mean when they say their "hearts burned within them"?
18. When do they realize Jesus was at work—during the moment or afterward?
19. What is significant about their immediate response in verse 33?

Follow-up: What changed between their walk away from Jerusalem and their return to it?

PART 6: Key Themes & Tensions

20. What tension do you see between **their expectations** and **what God actually did**?
21. How does this passage challenge the way we think about:
 - disappointment
 - unanswered expectations
 - how God works
22. What does this story teach us about the relationship between:
 - Scripture
 - personal experience
 - understanding God's work

PART 7: Personal Reflection

23. Where in your life have you said (or could say): “We had hoped...”?
24. Have you experienced a time when you later realized God was at work, even though you couldn’t see it at the time?
25. When God feels distant or unclear, what is your natural tendency:
 - lean in
 - pull back
 - distract yourself
 - something else?
26. What would it look like for you to stay in:
 - Scripture
 - community
 - the presence of Jesus

even when you don’t yet have clarity?

PART 8: Living It Out

27. Is there a situation in your life right now where you may need to let Jesus **reframe your understanding of the story**?
28. What is one practical way you can “stay at the table” this week instead of drifting away?
29. How might this passage change the way you read:
 - your life story
 - or the Old Testament

Closing Moment

Invite each person to reflect silently or share:

“Right now, I’ve been saying ‘I had hoped...’ about _____.”

Then close in prayer, asking Jesus to:

- meet you in disappointment
- open your eyes to His presence
- and help you trust His larger story

Leader Tip

This passage will often surface:

- disappointment

- confusion
- deeper questions about God's ways

When that happens:

- resist the urge to fix everything quickly
- affirm honest reflection
- keep bringing the conversation back to the text

Because this story reminds us:

Jesus doesn't rush disappointed people: He walks with them, listens to them, and then patiently reframes their story.