

# Because He Lives Week 3

## “We Had Hoped” Luke 24:13-35

### Big Idea

**The risen Jesus meets us not only in victory but in disappointment, patiently reframing our dashed hopes through Scripture and His presence.**

### Introduction

- Because He lives...
  - He meets us in **grief**
  - He meets us in **fear and doubt**
- This week: Jesus meets us in **disappointment**
- The honest line:

**“We had hoped...”**

**Key Truth: Disappointment is not the absence of faith, it is often the result of it.**

## Outline

1. Disappointment is not the absence of faith, it's often the result of it

### Luke 24:13-21

- The disciples believed, followed, and hoped
- Their disappointment flows from real expectation
- Faith and disappointment can coexist

**Key Line: You can't say “we had hoped” unless you actually hoped.**

2. Jesus is present before He is recognized

### Luke 24:15-16

- Jesus walks with them, but they don't recognize Him

- God's presence is not always immediately visible
- Felt distance does not equal actual absence

**Key Line: Just because God feels distant doesn't mean He is absent.**

### 3. Jesus invites us to name our disappointment

**Luke 24:17-24**

- Jesus asks questions to draw out their hearts
- He allows them to fully express their disappointment
- Honest faith begins with honest prayer

**Key Line: You can't heal what you won't admit.**

### 4. The problem is not the story, it's how they're reading it

**Luke 24:25-27**

- Jesus corrects their interpretation, not their hope
- The Scriptures point to a suffering and victorious Messiah
- The issue is not what happened but how they understand it

**Key Line: Resurrection doesn't just change the ending, it changes how you read the whole story.**

### 5. The Bible is about Jesus, through suffering and glory

- The entire Old Testament points to Christ
- The cross was not a failure, but the plan
- Disappointment often comes from misunderstanding how God works

**Key Line: God didn't fail, they misunderstood how He would work.**

### 6. Recognition comes through presence, Scripture, and the table

**Luke 24:28-31**

- Jesus is known through:
  - Walking with Him (**presence**)
  - Listening to His Word (**Scripture**)
  - Staying in relationship (**fellowship**)
- Clarity comes through process, not instant understanding

**Key Line: Recognition grows out of relationship, not speed.**

## 7. “Did not our hearts burn within us?”

**Luke 24:32**

- Jesus was at work before they realized it
- Understanding often comes in hindsight
- Scripture, rightly understood, awakens the heart

**Key Line: Clarity often comes after the journey, not before it.**

## Application

### 1. Bring your disappointment to Jesus

- Stop filtering your prayers
- Be honest about unmet expectations

### 2. When God feels absent, don't assume He is

- Lean in instead of pulling away
- Stay rooted in prayer, Scripture, and community

### 3. Let Jesus reshape how you read your story

- Your perspective may be incomplete
- God may be working in ways you don't yet see

### 4. Trust that God may be working differently than you expected

- Not less but deeper
- Not failure but unfolding purpose

### 5. Stay at the table

- Don't drift in disappointment
- Stay connected to Jesus and His people

## Conclusion

- The disciples walked away saying, “**We had hoped...**”
- Jesus walked with them, even when they didn’t recognize Him

### **Because He lives...**

- Your disappointment is not the end of your story
- Your confusion is not the end of your story
- Your expectations do not define the outcome

**Final Line: Your story is not ruined when your expectations are.**

## Next Week

### **“Restored”**

A message for those who feel like they’ve failed and how Jesus meets them there.