

# Because He Lives Week 3

## Youth Group Study “We Had Hoped”

Luke 24:13–35

### Leader Setup (Quick Notes)

- Keep things conversational
- Don't rush silence—let them think
- Use follow-up prompts like:
  - “Why do you think that?”
  - “Can you explain that more?”
  - “Does anyone see it differently?”

### PART 1: What's Going On Here? (vv. 13-16)

1. Where are these two disciples going, and what are they talking about? What does that tell you about their mindset?
2. Why do you think they're leaving Jerusalem? What just happened there?
3. What's surprising about verse 15-16? (Who shows up? What don't they realize?)
4. What do you think it would feel like to be walking with Jesus and not know it's Him?

#### *Follow-up:*

Have you ever had a moment where you realized later that God might have been at work, but you didn't see it at the time?

### PART 2: “We Had Hoped...” (vv. 17-24)

5. How does Luke describe the disciples' emotions in verse 17?
6. When Jesus asks what's going on, what do they say about Him?  
What do they get right? What might they be missing?
7. What does the phrase “**we had hoped**” tell you about what they expected Jesus to do?

#### *Follow-up:*

Billy talked about disappointment being connected to real faith. Why do you think that's true?

8. Do you think these disciples have stopped believing completely, or are they just confused and disappointed? Why?

## PART 3: The Problem: How They're Reading the Story (vv. 25-27)

9. How does Jesus respond to them in verse 25?  
What do you think He means by "slow of heart to believe"?
10. What does Jesus say was *necessary* in verse 26?  
Why is that important?
11. Verse 27 says Jesus explained "Moses and all the Prophets."  
What do you think that means?
12. Why do you think Jesus uses Scripture to help them instead of just immediately proving who He is?

## PART 4: Presence, Scripture, and the Table (vv. 28-31)

13. What happens when they reach their destination? Why do they ask Jesus to stay?
14. What does Jesus do at the table, and what happens right after?
15. Looking at the whole story, what are the three main things Jesus does with them before they recognize Him? (Hint: walking, teaching, eating)

*Follow-up:* Billy said this pattern matters:

- presence
- Scripture
- fellowship

Why do you think recognition happens *after* all of that, not before?

16. What do you think this teaches us about how we come to know Jesus more clearly today?

## PART 5: "Hearts Burning" & Looking Back (vv. 32-35)

17. What do the disciples say in verse 32 about their hearts "burning"?  
What do you think that means?
18. When do they realize Jesus was at work: during the moment, or after?
19. What do they do immediately after recognizing Him?

*Follow-up:*

Why do you think they go back to Jerusalem right away?

## PART 6: Wrestling with Disappointment

20. What's something in life that can make someone say, "I thought things would go differently"?

21. The message said that disappointment often comes from real hope. How have you seen that play out in real life?

22. What's the difference between:

- walking away from God
- walking *with* God while confused or disappointed?

23. Why do you think it's tempting to walk away when things don't go how we expected?

## PART 7: Make It Personal

24. Where in your life do you feel disappointed right now?

25. Do you ever feel like God is distant or hard to see? What do you usually do in those moments?

26. What would it look like for you to:

- stay connected to Jesus
- stay in Scripture
- stay in community

even when things don't make sense?

27. What's one area of your life where you might need to let Jesus **"reframe the story"** instead of assuming it's over?

## Closing Moment

Have each student finish this sentence:

**"Right now, I've been saying 'I had hoped...' about \_\_\_\_\_."**

(Optional: share out loud or write it privately)

Then close in prayer, asking Jesus to:

- walk with them in their disappointment
- open their eyes to where He is at work
- and help them trust Him even when they don't understand yet

## Leader Tip

If students share disappointment or confusion:

- Don't rush to fix it
- Don't give quick answers
- Don't shut it down

Instead:

- Affirm: “That makes sense”
- Normalize: “A lot of people feel that way”
- Redirect: “Let’s keep bringing that to Jesus together”

Because this passage shows:

Jesus doesn’t avoid disappointed people, He walks with them.