



SOJOURN SPRING BRANCH

EASTERTIDE IN LUKE



Discussion Questions, Prayers,
and Additional Resources

EASTERTIDE 2023 IN LUKE

We begin the season of Eastertide where we focus on the resurrection and what it means for us. For the seven weeks following Easter, we will see similarities that our lives have with two followers of Jesus who, on Resurrection Day, left Jerusalem to Emmaus. They were surprised, a bit confused, sad, and somewhat hopeless.

This story is found in Luke 24:13-35 and has huge implications for us, since it is here where we often find ourselves, in between the hope of Jesus' resurrection and our own hopes for a better life.

Yet, Jesus comes alongside us and walks with us. So, with Jesus as our companion on this journey, we learn how we can welcome the stranger and practice hospitality, listen to our deepest hopes and desires, see our suffering as sanctification, practice discernment, and bear witness of Jesus as we go out on the mission he is calling us to.

PREACHING SCHEDULE

Date	Passage	Title	Theme
Week 1: April 16	Luke 24:13-16	Jesus Comes Near	Hospitality
Week 2: April 23	Luke 24:17-20	Standing Still, Looking Sad	Listening
Week 3: April 30	Luke 24:21	We had Hoped	Unmet Expectations
Week 4: May 7	Luke 24:24-27	The Necessary Sufferings of Jesus	Suffering
Week 5: May 14 (Mother's Day)	Luke 24:22-23	Amazed by the Women	Men and Women Relationships
Week 6: May 21 (Ascension)	Luke 24:28-32	Open Eyes and Burning Hearts	Discernment
Week 7: May 28 (Pentecost)	Luke 24:33-35	Telling What Happens on The Road	Mission

WEEKLY PARISH DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (inspired by Ruth Haley Barton)

Week 1 - Luke 24:13-16

What thought, picture, story, or experience come to mind when you think of community? Has your ideal of community held up or has it been broken? How has that affected you?

In what areas do you experience strangeness of a brother or sister; in other words, where are you different from one another in age, ethnic culture, gender, life experience/stage, politics, opinions, and what would it look like for you to welcome one another and experience each other as a gift in these areas?

Week 2 - Luke 24:17-20

This week, we hope to listen without fixing with a listening exercise.

"First, I look to God."

Begin with 1 minute of silence. A facilitator closes out the silence with a prayer such as "Come, Holy Spirit."

"Then, I look at you."

The first person shares *how and where they are experiencing themselves to be on the road between Christ's resurrection and their own life of struggle, suffering, lack, etc. (the already and not yet).*

"Lastly, I look at God again."

When that person finishes sharing, and before another person shares, a facilitator invites the group into a brief silence and closes out the silence by saying, "Thanks be to God."

Week 3 - Luke 24:21

Each person picks one question to answer:

1. What is it that God wants to show you about yourself as you get more honest about your desires? Which ones seem to come from something false within you and which ones seem come from something true found in His word?

2. What aspect of your desire is something only Christ can fulfill or accomplish? What is your part?

Week 4 - Luke 24:24-27

How does the suffering of Jesus offer you a perspective on your own spiritual life? What guidance does it offer? What hope or encouragement does it give you?

Week 5 - Luke 24:22-23

How have your early experiences in your family, in the church and in the culture, shaped your understanding of what is possible in relationships between men and women in Christian community?

Where do you find affirmation for how you are currently approaching relationships between men and women in Christian community, and where do you feel challenged?

Week 6 - Luke 24:28-32

Luke 24:29 reads, "But they [disciples] urged him [Jesus] strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.' So he went in to stay with them." How might you live the act of staying, of stability, of long-term relationships within your parish as you seek to discern the presence of God together?

Week 7 - Luke 24:33-35

What is your story of being transformed by Jesus? How do you hope to bear witness to the transforming power of Christ in your own life?

DAILY PRAYERS

Pray the same prayer individually and/or as a family every evening.

Week 1 - Hospitality

“Stay with us, Lord,
since the day is far spent and the night is
coming:
kindle our hearts on the way, that we may
recognize you in the Scriptures,
in the breaking of bread, and in each other.
As the poor widow welcomed Elijah,
let us be open to the richness and miracle
in meeting.
As Abraham and Sarah welcomed passing
strangers,
let us entertain the possibility of angels in
disguise.
Let our eyes be opened, that we may
recognize in our neighbor
the divine presence of Christ.
Amen.”

-Iona Abbey Worship Book

Week 2 - Listening

“Lord, we gather together this day [or
night]
as openly and as honestly as we are
presently able.
For these moments that are sanctified for
listening in community,
may we be blessed to know the goodness
of Godly company,
the peace of grace leading us gently,
and the life of your refreshing Spirit
hovering over the face of the waters of our
lives
ready and willing to bring forth new life
even in the formless and void places of our
hearts and communities.
Enable us to trust your Spirit among us
as we are present to you on behalf of one
another,
for we are gathered in your strong name,
Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.”

-The Book of Common Prayer

Week 3 - Unmet Expectations

“Oh God, you alone know the depths of
each human heart;
grant us the grace to know our heart’s
truest desire.
grant that we may take delight in you,
oh Lord,
trusting you with all our hearts.
As we hold our desires openly in your
presence
and in each other’s presence,
Grant us the courage to cry out to you;
Grant us the faith to be still
and know that you are God,
that we might wait patiently for you to
act,
in our own lives and in each other’s lives.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our
Lord.
Amen.”

Week 4 - Suffering

“Lord, high and holy, meek and lowly,
Thou has brought me to the valley of
vision,
where I live in the depths but see Thee
in the heights;
hemmed in by mountains of sin I behold
Thy glory.
Let me learn by paradox
that the way down is the way up,
that to be low is to be high,
that the broken heart is the healed
heart,
that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing
spirit,
that the repenting soul is the victorious
soul,
that to have nothing is to possess all,
that to bear the cross is to wear the
crown,
that to give is to receive,
that the valley is the place of vision.
Lord, in the daytime stars can be seen
from deepest wells,
and the deeper the wells the brighter
Thy stars shine;
Let me find Thy light in my darkness,
Thy life in my death,
Thy joy in my sorrow,
Thy grace in my sin,
Thy riches in my poverty
Thy glory in my valley.
Amen.”

-The Valley of Vision

Week 5 - Men and Women Relationships

"As a community gathered in the transforming presence of Jesus, we affirm that, as men and women, we are made in God's image, befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.

With God's people everywhere, we affirm God's goodness at the heart of Creation planted more deeply than all that is wrong.

With all creation, we celebrate the miracle and wonder of life; and the unfolding purposes of God, forever at work in ourselves and the world.

Move among us, O God; give us life: let your people rejoice in you.

As brothers and sisters in your family, make our hearts clean within us: renew us in mind and spirit.

Give us the joy of your help, O God; with your Spirit of freedom sustain us. Amen."

-Iona Abbey Worship Book

Week 6 - Discernment

"Lord,
I believe
my life is touched by you,
that you want something for
me,
and of me.

Give me ears
to hear you,
eyes
to see the tracing of your finger in
all of life,
and a heart
quickened by the emotions
of your Spirit deep within.

Amen."

-Ted Loder

Week 7 - Mission

“As Abraham left his home and the security of all he had known,
so we lay down what is past and look to the future.
As Mary washed Jesus’ feet with oil and hair,
so we take into daily life signs of hope and healing.
As the disciples returned to Jerusalem to tell what had happened on the road,
as John built community and Paul traveled ever on,
so we reach beyond ourselves
to share the lives of others and touch a wider world.
As Esther stepped out in faith for such a time as this,
so we take courage to do what God calls us to do.

And as Jesus taught us, so we say:
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on Earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.”

-Iona Abbey Worship Book

BOOK RESOURCES

Life Together in Christ: Experiencing Transformation in Community by Ruth Haley Barton

Sacred Rhythms: Arranging our Lives for Spiritual Transformation by Ruth Haley Barton

Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation by M. Robert Mulholland Jr.

Discernment by Henri Nouwen

With Burning Hearts by Henri Nouwen