

Monday, April 20

Pieces of the Puzzle

Luke 24:13–16

“That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him.”

Have you ever worked on a jigsaw puzzle with a group of people? One person grabs all the edge pieces, another sorts by color, somebody else hunts for a familiar shape. Nobody has the whole picture yet—but each person’s contribution matters. That is something like what is happening in Luke 24.

The resurrection of Jesus has just taken place, and the full story is scattered across many different witnesses and experiences. These two disciples are walking away from Jerusalem, carrying only a few pieces of the puzzle. They have heard some reports, but they have not yet seen the risen Lord for themselves.

Their eyes are kept from recognizing Him when He draws near. Notice that Jesus does not stand at a distance and shout the answer. He draws near.

He walks alongside them in their confusion. This is how our Lord so often works—not with a blinding flash from heaven, but by coming close to us in His Word and Sacraments, walking with us even when we do not yet see Him clearly. You may feel today as though you only have a few puzzle pieces of your own.

That is okay. The risen Christ is already walking beside you.

Discussion Questions

1. When has God felt especially close to you during a time of confusion or uncertainty?
2. Why do you think the disciples’ eyes were kept from recognizing Jesus at first?
3. What are some of the “puzzle pieces” of faith that your family carries together?

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, You draw near to us even when we do not recognize You. Open our eyes to see You walking beside us today—in Your Word and in the fellowship of Your people. Amen.

Family Action Item

Work on a jigsaw puzzle together as a family this week. As you do, talk about how each person’s pieces are needed to see the whole picture—just as each person’s experience of Jesus helps the whole church see Him more clearly.