



Summer at Parkview - Week 5

July 27-28, 2019 | Gene Appel

This weekend Pastor Gene Appel talks about how to live through the "broken dreams" moments in our life.

CELEBRATE

At the beginning of your small group time, it's good to share about your week and share with each other how you're doing. So, spend some time, right now, connecting before jumping into the discussion questions. You can use the *Connect* section as a guide. If you're doing this Study Guide on your own, take a moment to focus your mind on God and what He might want you to hear today.

CONNECT

1. Talk about a situation you encountered (like Gene's coyote experience) for which you were completely unprepared. How did you react?
2. Talk about the first picture that comes to mind when you hear the word "disappointment." Where does that image come from, for you?

Before watching the sermon, or moving on in this study, take a minute to remember that God is always with you. Pray as a group for God to bless your conversation and open your eyes and hearts to what He wants you to hear.

REFLECT

Before moving forward in your study, take a moment and review the key points from this weekend's message.

1. The experience of disappointment with life is universal; everyone goes through it.

2. Our dreams can be broken by doubt, discouragement, or delay.
3. Jesus invites us to an "even now" moment where even though our dreams have been broken, there is hope.
4. Even though Jesus knows the hopeful end of our story, He still weeps with us in our broken dreams.

SCRIPTURES USED IN THE MESSAGE: John 11:1-44

RESPOND

1. Talk about a thought, phrase, or moment from this weekend's message that really struck you. Share why it stuck out to you.
2. Pastor Gene shared a particularly painful story of how God showed up in his father's death. Talk about the thoughts or emotions that came up as you listened to Pastor Gene's story. Why is it important for people of faith to tell stories of disappointment?
3. Read Luke 24:13-32. Read carefully, making note of any words or phrases that stand out to you. Luke writes this Gospel (a kind of story that tells good news about the life of Jesus) primarily to Christians in Roman or non-Jewish circles. The Gospel is part 1 with the book of Acts as part 2 of the same story. In this passage, two people are dealing with Jesus' death and the rumors of his resurrection. They're also dealing with their own shattered expectations.
4. The two people are walking to Emmaus, which is between 7 and 17 miles from Jerusalem. (24:13) In a time when walking is the primary way of transportation, this is a long walk. Talk about how shattered dreams prompt us to go to "far-away" places. Talk about a time you dealt with shattered dreams by going to substances, unhealthy behaviors, or less-harmful distractions. How did your attempt to escape affect the process of dealing with broken dreams?
5. Jesus joins the two people and they engage in a conversation about the source of their despair. As you read the exchange between Jesus & the walkers (24:14-24), talk about what you notice. How do you find yourself identifying with the two walkers as you read? What does it mean that even though they were in despair, Jesus was literally with them? Talk about how we could be in despair and yet be in the presence of Jesus.
6. Jesus says "How foolish you are..." (24:25). Here, the word translated "foolish" literally means "having lost touch with reality." Talk about how broken dreams sometimes convinces us of things that are not really true or real. How have you been deceived to believe something in a time of disappointment that wasn't really true?
7. The two walkers recognize Jesus when He gives them the symbols of his death (broken bread) and resurrection (24:30-31). Talk about how the story of Jesus suffering (and the expectations of the world being shattered through his death) helps you think about the broken dreams in your own life. How does the story of resurrection help you to rethink your own broken dreams?
8. The two walkers say that their hearts were "burning within" them as Jesus talked (24:32). Perhaps as you listened to Pastor Gene you felt your own heart burning. Or something else has happened this week when you felt that God was at work in your heart. Talk as a group about what you feel God is up to. If you have never decided

to become a follower of Jesus, perhaps this is the time to do it. Whatever step you decide to take, share it with the group so they can support you with wisdom and encouragement.

Closing Prayer:

God, we all get disappointed. Sometimes it takes years for us to really deal with our disappointments. We know that you don't walk away from us, though. Just like the two walkers in Luke, you come alongside of us and remind us that "even now" you're doing something far beyond what we could ask or imagine. We'll forget that this week, however. Please give us little reminders that no matter how our dreams are shattered, even then you are with us. You are so good - thank you for Jesus and the way he rescues us.

Amen.