

# Talk About It

Small Group Discussion Guide

## God Encounters

The Road to Emmaus

July 20-July 23, 2023

### Start Talking

Share a memory of one of your funniest drive-thru encounters.

### Main Idea

The Bible is full of stories of people encountering God. These encounters often transformed people's lives and set them on a new path. In our Summer Series, God Encounters, we explore some of these encounters and learn what they can teach us about our spiritual journeys. This week, Pastor Charlie shares the events on the road to Emmaus from the final chapter of Luke's Gospel. In this passage, two disciples (Cleopas and one unnamed) of Jesus were walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus on the day Jesus rose from the dead. Jesus joins them along the road, and talks with them, but the disciples do not recognize Him. Eventually, they recognize Him as they spend time with Him. We can learn and apply several things from the message and scriptures to our lives.

### Personalize It

1. If you were one of the two disciples that day, do you think you would know Jesus was walking beside you?
2. The disciples knew the prophecies and scripture, but because Jesus wasn't physically with them anymore, they were struggling. Has there been a time Jesus was right beside you, but you couldn't see Him?
3. Do you trust God's power to be evident in your life and work through you even when you struggle to understand? When have you trusted in Jesus, His word and promises even though you didn't understand?
4. Our relationship with Jesus is not just about us, it's meant to change other people too. Do others see Jesus in you and working through you?
5. Jesus' presence is also evident in us by how we view others. Do you think Jesus sees people not where they've been but where they could be? Do you look at people this way?

## Let's Do It! Commit to a step and live it out this week!

1. Jesus can be your Savior, but more than that, he wants to be your Lord. What one thing can you be intentional about doing this week to take a step toward allowing Jesus to be the Lord of your life?
2. Do I fully know Jesus, or do I just know the stories? Do I recognize him in the midst of my pain, struggle, loneliness, and despair? Commit this week to reflect on these questions and truthfully answer them for yourself.
3. Make an intentional effort this week to trust God with something that you have been holding on trying to control. He doesn't ask us to know it all before we take steps. He just asks us to trust Him, knowing that His will and plan are greater than anything we could come up with on our own.

## Let's Pray

Jesus, thank you for who you are and the relationship that you desire to have with us. We know there is a difference between having knowledge about you and genuinely knowing you deeply. Help us take steps every day towards knowing you better and your heart for us. Thank you for being not only our Savior but our Lord. Help us to be willing to commit to you in all things, even when we don't know the end result or the exact plan. Thank you for allowing us to trust in you and your goodness.

## Key Scriptures

### **Luke 24:13-35**

"That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. But God kept them from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days. "What things?" Jesus asked. "The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago. "Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said." Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself. By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them. As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared! They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter." Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread