

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

April 12

Starting with experience

1. Share a time when something didn't turn out the way you hoped. How did you respond?
2. When the disciples say "we had hoped...", what do you think they were feeling as they walked away from Jerusalem?
3. Gary uses the word disillusionment for moments like that—when what we hoped for doesn't match reality. Does that word resonate with you? Why or why not?

Making sense of the experience

1. Gary makes a distinction between doubt and disillusionment—saying one wrestles more with questions, while the other wrestles more with disappointment. What do you think about that? Does that feel accurate?
2. Can you think of an example or situation that helps show the difference between the two?

Noticing Jesus in the ordinary

1. The disciples seem to be hoping for something big and dramatic—but they end up recognizing Jesus in a simple, ordinary moment around a meal. Why do you think it's easy to look for God in the big or extraordinary moments, and miss him in the ordinary ones?
2. Where might God be showing up in your everyday life right now—in ways that could be easy to miss?
3. Why do you think Jesus chose to reveal himself this way—through something as simple as walking and sharing a meal?

From information to encounter

1. Jesus explains the Scriptures to the disciples—but they still don't recognize him until they share a meal together. Why do you think it's easy to assume that more information or understanding will solve our questions—even in our faith?
2. Have you seen ways that focusing only on beliefs or "getting the right answers" can sometimes miss something important?
3. What do you think encountering Jesus relationally might offer us that information alone cannot?
4. What might it look like in your everyday rhythms—like prayer, Scripture, community, or Sundays—to make space not just to learn about Jesus, but to actually encounter him?