

## Good News, Great Joy, All People

“I will never be the same”

Luke 24:26-39

### Growth Group Discussion Guide

#### **Opening Question** (get everyone involved in discussion):

- ❖ Begin your time together with a moment of silence, then pray and ask for God’s Spirit to shape us through his word.
- ❖ Share about an experience that left you forever changed. What was it? How did it affect you?

#### **1. Read Luke 24:1-12, to get a sense for the context. Discuss:**

- Who were the first witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus?
- Why do you think the other disciples considered their account to be “nonsense?” (v. 11)

#### **2. Read Luke 24:36-43, then discuss the following.**

- What do you think was the state of mind and emotional disposition of the disciples, at the outset of this scene?
- Why would Jesus’ greeting, “peace be with you,” have been especially significant?
- Why do you think the disciples considered Jesus to be a ghost, rather than actually risen?
- What do you think of the various ways that Jesus tried convincing them that he was really risen, in the body?
- What implications do these things have for our own hope of resurrection? How can that impact the way that we live now?
- If you have trouble believing that Jesus really rose from the dead, what answer or experiences would you need to have in order to believe? Are there steps you can take to pursue these things?
- If you already believe in Jesus and his resurrection, what convinced you to believe? What difference has the resurrection made to your life already?

#### **3. Read Luke 24:44-49, and discuss the following.**

- When Jesus says, “Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms,” what things do you think he is referencing from the Old Testament?
- Why was it necessary for Jesus to review the Old Testament Scriptures with the disciples in this scene? What was their big hangup?
- Do you feel that Jesus has “opened your mind” (45) to understand the Old Testament Scriptures through the lenses of his death and resurrection? If so, how did this happen? What impact has it had on you?
- Jesus says that “repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.” How does this sentence summarize the content of the Christian message? How well are we doing at carrying on this proclamation in our community?

- What does it mean to be “witnesses of these things?”
  - In what way were the original disciples uniquely witnesses?
  - In what way can we, like they, be witnesses of these things?
  - What would it look like for you, this week, to be a witness of Jesus’ resurrection for someone else?
- In v. 49 Jesus assures them that he will send an essential resource for their task.
  - What promised gift was he referencing?
  - How did this gift empower the proclamation that took place immediately after Jesus’ ascension?
  - How is this gift active in helping you to carry the good news forward in your community?

#### 4. **Series wrap-up.**

- Since early December, we’ve studied the Gospel of Luke. What aspects of this series and our discussion has had the most impact on you?
- In what ways will you be changed from this “good news that causes great joy for all people?”

#### **Prayer:**

- Pray for the people you mentioned above, who need to hear and believe the good news.
- Take a moment to share, and pray for any other needs that exist among your group members.