

Lesson 8: Surprise



Old Testament

New Testament

Where in the Bible?

Jesus' resurrection comes at the end of each Gospel.

The New Testament: Resurrection

On the third day, when Jesus' followers went to the tomb, they found it empty. They were told by an angel that Jesus had risen from the dead. Later, the living Jesus appeared to many of his followers over a period of 40 days before he ascended into heaven.

Biblical Background

Each of the Gospel writers tells the story of Jesus' resurrection from a different angle, focusing on the message of the empty tomb and the fulfillment of Jesus' promise that he would rise again.

Only in Luke's account do we get today's additional interlude, in the story of Jesus' encounter with the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. We get a glimpse into the defeat and dejection Jesus' followers must have felt in the hours after his death. In their grief they were blinded to the truth of Jesus' promise, that death and the grave could not contain him. He was alive!

Introduction

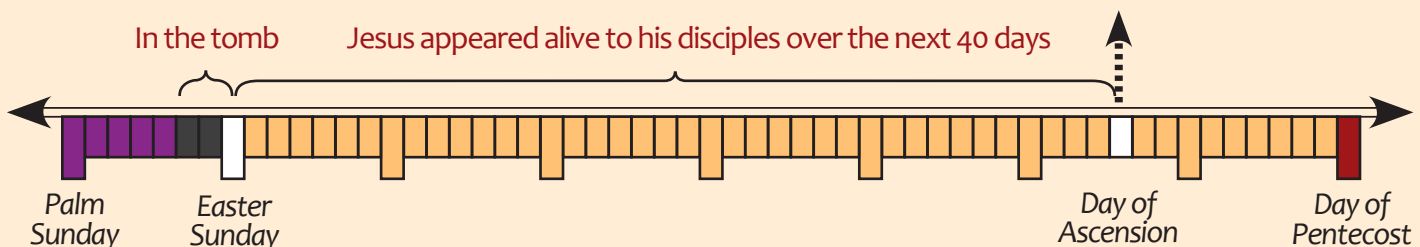
After the seeing their Lord put to death on the cross, two disciples were heading home in sadness and disappointment. But a stranger met them along the way, and talked with them about all that had happened. Little did they know the stranger was the risen Jesus himself!

Read: Luke 24:13-35

On reading these verses, what are some of your initial impressions and questions? What stands out to you?

When in Time?

In Church, following Easter Sunday, we celebrate the Season of Easter. During this season we remember that after he rose from the dead, Jesus appeared many times to his followers — both women and men. He stayed with the disciples for forty days, after which he was lifted up into heaven. We call this event the **Ascension**. It is described in Acts 1:1-11.



Discuss: Luke 24:13-35

1. The verses just prior to this lesson tell the story of the women finding the empty tomb and the angel's message that Jesus had risen. Did the travelers know this information? Why did they not believe it?
2. From what they say in the text, how would you describe the thoughts and emotions of the two disciples on the road? Why do you think they didn't recognize Jesus?
3. How did Jesus respond to what the two travelers said to him (v. 25-26)? Do you hear this as words of judgment or as sympathetic understanding?
4. Jesus said that what had happened in Jerusalem was "necessary." Necessary for what? Was this the only way it could have happened? Explain.
5. When Jesus shared supper with the travelers, Scripture says, "He took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them..." (v.30). What do these words remind you of? How does Jesus come to *us* in the "breaking of the bread"?
6. What did the two disciples mean when they said, "Did not our hearts burn within us ... ?" (v. 32)? What were they feeling? Has the story of Jesus ever made you feel that way?
7. Do you think the travelers were surprised by what they heard when they returned to Jerusalem? Why did they believe it now?
8. Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-20. Paul says here that if it were not for Jesus' death and resurrection, we would have no hope for a future life. Why is Jesus at the heart of the promise we have of eternal life?

Where in the World?

The map to the right shows the Holy Land. See whether you can remember from previous lessons some of the major locations. On the map, label:

The Great Sea	The Jordan River
The Region of Galilee	The City of Jerusalem

Jesus died and rose again in Jerusalem. He appeared there to Mary and the women at the tomb (John 20:14), as well as to the other disciples in the Upper Room (John 20:19).

In our story for today, we see that he also appeared to two more disciples as they traveled home from Jerusalem to the town of Emmaus. In that region, there were a couple different towns that went by that same name (see map).

Luke says that Emmaus was at a distance of *sixty stadia* from Jerusalem, which is equivalent to about seven miles. On the map, circle the location you think is more likely the town that Luke was talking about.

