

SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

STORY OF FAITH: WEEK 13

After Jesus announced the good news of God’s fulfilled promises and the impending arrival of the kingdom, He spent about three more years in public ministry teaching and proclaiming this good news.

We saw in Isaiah 53 that the final sacrifice for the sins of God’s people could not be a lamb. It had to be one of them. It had to be the Promised One, who would represent the people and stand in as their substitute. Jesus knew His mission was to serve (and not be served), and His main task as a servant was “to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). Therefore, He willingly went to the cross.

Most Jews in the 1st century did not understand this. They had read the prophecies of God’s Anointed One, the Messiah, but very few made the connection between the royal Son of David and the suffering servant, let alone a suffering Messiah. In this role Jesus was the final sacrifice who took the weight of sin and the wrath of God on Himself. He paid the final price of sin once and for all and died on that cross.

But on Easter Sunday morning He rose again. God once asked Ezekiel, “Can these bones live?” The answer is a resounding YES! In the resurrection, God gave new life to His Son and to all who believe in Him. After He rose from the grave, Jesus quietly appeared to His followers and taught them the significance of His resurrection—that God is giving life to dead, dry bones. He even joined those two men on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35) and helped them see how the promises of God and the story of Scripture pointed to Himself. He helped them see why the Messiah needed to die for new life and the new creation to come. Not long after, He ascended to Heaven.

This is why Paul said that Jesus was “declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead” (Romans 1:4). He also said, “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation” (2 Corinthians 5:17). The old is gone, the new has come.

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SCRIPTURE

John 19:28-30 ESV

28 *After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), “I thirst.”*

29 *A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth.*

30 *When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.*

Romans 1:1-6 ESV

1 *Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,*

2 *which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures,*

3 *concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh*

4 *and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the*

Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

5 *through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations,*

6 *including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.*

Luke 24:25-27 ESV

25 *And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!*

26 *Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”*

27 *And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.*

DISCUSSION GUIDE QUESTIONS

on your own, with family, or with your small group

Reflecting on Paul’s description of the Gospel in Romans 1:1-6, what key elements does he emphasize regarding the identity and mission of Jesus Christ?

In Romans 1:4, Paul highlights Jesus’ resurrection as a central aspect of his identity as the Son of God. Why is the resurrection so crucial to Jesus’ divinity and authority?

In Luke 24:13-35, why did the two disciples on the road to Emmaus initially fail to recognize Jesus even as they walked and talked with Him? Why does Jesus sometimes operate that way?

Read on the conversation Jesus has with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. What themes or messages do you think He explained to them?

Once their eyes were opened, the two men returned to Jerusalem. Encountering Jesus is life changing. What lessons can we draw from their experience for our own faith journeys?