

Small Group Notes 30 April 2017. Theme: 'From Disillusionment to Joy'

Key Words: Resurrection, Joy, Faith, Revelation, Remembrance, Reflection

Note: You may need to provide pen and paper for this session.

Welcome

- Have you heard the phrase “*my heart was strangely warmed*”? What does it mean to you? (or, if no-one has heard the phrase, ask: what do you think it means?).¹

Worship

- Reflect: How did God work in your heart on Sunday during worship?
- Read 1 Peter 1:17-23 and give God praise that we are saved from an “*empty way of life*” (vs 18) to a life of hope and love.

Word

Read Luke 24:13-35. Listen imaginatively – picturing everything from the road to the scenery to the how the characters look and feel.

1. What do you think kept the disciples from recognising Jesus (vs. 16).
2. Have a go at summarising the life of Jesus in 150 words and share your summaries (Luke does this in vs. 18-24 and also in Acts 2:22–36; 3:12–15; 5:29–32; 13:16–39).
3. What enabled the disciples to see Jesus? Ask one or two members if they are willing to share their experiences of coming to faith.
4. Read vs 32. The disciples only understood what had happened to them upon reflection. That is why, every week, we ask you to reflect on how God worked in your heart on Sunday. Discuss the excerpt below and then invite testimony of how reflection has enabled people to discern God’s activity.

There are three times in which to know an event: in rehearsal, at the time of the event, and in remembrance. In rehearsal, understanding is hindered by an inability to believe that the event will really occur or that it will be so important. At the time of the event, understanding is hindered by the clutter and confusion of so much so fast. But in remembrance, the nonseriousness of rehearsal and the busyness of the event give way to recognition, realization, and understanding. This is a time of understanding an important trip, a wedding, a gathering of friends, or a conversation with a stranger turned Christ at table.²

Works

- Pray for those you know who long for the experience of the “heart strangely warmed”.
- Hospitality led to the disciples to encounter Jesus. How can you be intentionally hospitable to those you don’t know at DMC?
- Share your experiences from last week’s experiment (copied below) and commit to continuing with or improving this practise.
- On Sunday we celebrate the Lord’s Supper. Experiment with preparing yourself for this most important act of worship (e.g. Self-reflection, consciously bringing something or someone who needs prayer, an early night before, reading the set lessons etc.).

¹ The most recent minister’s note provides a very brief summary.

² Craddock, F. B. (1990). Luke (p. 287). Louisville, KY: John Knox Press.

Last Week's Experiment

Experiment with this exercise in the weeks to come: "I encourage you to claim your weekday life for God. Converting your daily workplace, wherever it may be, is the beginning of the adventure. Experiment with this challenge tomorrow morning. See yourself as a servant of the Holy One sent on a mission into the world. Declare your site of work, in the name of Jesus, to be a sanctuary. Ask that the compassion and truth of Christ be manifest in all you do and say. Refuse to co-operate with those things you know to be wrong. Let your interactions be characterised by sensitive and courteous service. Strive to excel in whatever you do. Converse frequently with Christ about your daily tasks, and seek his wisdom and directions to be a gospel-minister.