

## LEADERSHIP COACHING: EASTER 2020 AWAKEN!

DISCIPLESHIP PHRASE: JESUS IS WHO HE SAYS HE IS!

**BIG IDEA FOR SERIES:** REMOVE ALL DOUBT FROM YOUR HEART, JESUS IS ALIVE

*"BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO DO NOT SEE ME AND YET BELIEVE."*

### Abiding [grow as a disciple yourself]

This week's story is a timely one! For the past few weeks, we have experienced an unprecedented time in our history with COVID-19. With social distancing, death tolls rising, and people feeling isolated from their circles of community, our society has developed a sense of hopelessness and uncertainty. In this Bible story, two men on their way to Emmaus have just received news that Jesus, their great teacher and prophet of renown, has left them isolated, disconnected, and uncertain about their hope in Him. As they are walking along in their journey, with questions roaming in their minds, their talk of the events *about* Jesus transitions into an encounter *with* Jesus that changes the course of their lives forever. Jesus showed His love and willingness by coming alongside two searching hearts and making Himself known to them. Jesus is truly the Great Shepherd! This is a time for us to abide in Jesus as we journey along. **ABIDING** with Jesus means the *dwelling, living alongside the presence of Jesus*. It's the picture of sitting down with Jesus, breaking bread with Him, and leaning into the lessons of Jesus that he has prepared for us since the beginning. As you search the Scriptures about Jesus this week, remember to be looking for the unique opportunities he will show Himself to you. Sit with Him. Listen to Him. Enjoy His company. Walk with Him further than before. Remember, your faith will be made strong. **Additional reading: Isaiah 53:3-5; Isaiah 50:5-7; Daniel 9:26; Zechariah 12:10.**

### Leading [learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

One of the most profound effects that Jesus had on these two men after they had spent some time with Him was that their *eyes were open, and they recognized Him!* Within our small group communities of faith, having the vision to see Jesus working and revealing Himself is the greatest asset we can possess as leaders. Our apprentices, facilitators, host families, and our members-at-large are not concerned as much with how vast our knowledge is of the Bible as they are with how much time we are spending with Jesus. This is where we learn more of how to serve and love others in the same manner as He does. This week, as we step into those conversations with people we love, "see" people the way Jesus does rather than from our own points of view. **Lead to leave a lasting impression of Jesus!**

### Shepherding [know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]

As the two men returned to Jerusalem, they had the opportunity (with their small group) to *share their story* of how Jesus appeared to them, walked with them, and how their eyes were opened to see Him as He truly is. It was during this time of sharing their "God-story," that Jesus appeared (once more) and stood among them. It was in this instance, that the power of storying within a relational community truly invited the presence of Jesus to be at the center of their gathering. It was *His-story* revealed and re-told that prepared the disciples to accept the calling on their lives to go forth with the power of the Holy Spirit and be His witnesses to the world. As you *feed, lead, protect, and know* your small group this week, **capture the stories** of His power at work! Share these stories to the world with **renewed joy and wonder!** Empower your group to walk out into the world with confidence that the Spirit of God is **transforming them to impact their community around them.**

### BackgroundPLUS<sup>®</sup> [a deeper dive into this week's story]

- The number "**two**" is significant, for a twofold witness was necessary in Jewish law and the New Testament. Also calls for two witnesses. Two witnesses, Simeon and Anna had borne witness to His birth and these two travellers are to bear witness to His resurrection.
- Immediately the two went back to Jerusalem no longer seeing with the eyes of the flesh, but with spiritual eyes as the Scriptures and their hearts were opened to His Truth.
- These two witnesses proceeded to tell others about their experiences with Jesus and who He is. They serve as models of what disciples of the risen Christ should do.
- **The Bible Project** - [Luke 24](#) - The Emmaus Road

*"Every group deserves a great group leader..."*

**TOPIC:** JESUS APPEARED TO HIS DISCIPLES AFTER HIS RESURRECTION– REMOVED ALL DOUBT.

**TAKEAWAY:** RECEIVE JESUS' MESSAGE OF FORGIVENESS, REPENT, MAKE JESUS LORD!

**Open in Prayer**

**Welcome/Introductions** [Share [the topic & takeaway](#) this week from above]

**Review from last week** [Build in [accountability](#) to living it out]

Where have you seen God working and how have you joined Him?

**Review the Guidelines** [Share [the guidelines](#) to set the rails for group time]

**Ask a Hook Question** [A thought-provoking question to [get the group focused](#)]

What is the most notable conversation you have ever had?

**Share Background for the Story** [Provide [context](#) to the story from the Bible]

Jesus is alive! Jesus was dead for three days – Jewish culture recognizes a day even though it may not be a full 24 hours – the evening of Friday, Saturday; the Sabbath, and early Sunday morning. The four Gospels record that three Mary's, Salome, Joanna, and some others went to the tomb to prepare and anoint the body of Jesus for burial. After an encounter with an angel telling them "He is alive," they return to the disciples and proclaim the angel's message. Peter and John run back to the tomb to see the folded grave clothes. They didn't fully understand what had happened.

**Share the Story:** [Luke 24:13-40](#) [Volunteer from last week [shares](#) the story]

**Rebuild the Story** [Invites everyone to [engage](#)]

**Read from Scripture** [[Read out loud](#) to see if anything was added or omitted]

**Discussion Questions:** [[Dive deeper](#), beyond the surface]

1. How did Jesus reveal Himself to the men on the road to Emmaus?
2. What was it that these two men recognized in Jesus?
3. How has Jesus revealed Himself to you?
4. How are you able to recognize Jesus in a time like this?
5. It has been evident that God has been working in the past several weeks. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit in Luke 24:47, *It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.'*<sup>48</sup> *You are witnesses of all these things.*<sup>49</sup> *"And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven."*

**What is it that you sense the Holy Spirit inviting you to do this week?**

**Assign Next Week's Story:** [Daniel 1](#)

**Prayer Requests** [[Record, share & follow up](#) throughout the week]

**Closing Prayer** [[Ask openly](#) for a volunteer].