



FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

Year 1—The God of Life: A Story of God's Redeeming Shalom

Module 4—Coming Alive by Being Human: Jesus Stories on What it Means to Be Human and Fully Alive

Lesson 6—Luke 24:13-35

ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Luke 24:13-35 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

*How is this God's story?
How is this others' story?*

*How is this my story?
How is this the world's story?*

ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialog about the Word. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

GOD'S STORY—The resurrection of Jesus transforms his people and ushers in the fullness of God's life-giving mission.

In what ways is this story similar to other stories you have read in the Bible? How do you see God working the same as he has in other stories?

- God, in the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the appearance here to his disciples, continues to draw near in times of lostness.
- In retelling the story of God's plan for life from Moses down through the prophets, and connecting it to himself, Jesus is awakening the disciples to join him once again.
- The presence of Jesus is what ultimately transforms their eyes. In breaking bread and blessing it, Jesus reminds them of his presence at the Passover Meal, right before his arrest and crucifixion.

OUR STORY—Jesus meets us where we are, draws us into his story, and sends us into his mission.

What issues are you facing in your life right now? How might Jesus be walking with you in those issues?

- Jesus doesn't force his way into our lives. He simply joins our walk, making his presence known even if we aren't really cognizant of who he is at the time. But his presence in our lives is transformative.
- When we see how our lives fit into Jesus' mission, what it was that preoccupied us begins to fade away and we find ourselves caught up in the story that Jesus is telling. It is a story in which God is bringing life out of death, restoring the hopes of the hopeless and calling together a people to be the bearers of his life-giving mission in the world.
- The presence of Jesus lingers with us, and we feel sent to live into God's mission by alerting others that Jesus is alive and we know him. We are brought to life by his presence, and compelled to go to others in that same presence.

OTHERS' STORY—We enter the suffering of others in the presence of Jesus as part of his mission.

Where do you see the most suffering around you? How might you be called to enter into it? On your own? As a community?

- The cross was the moment when God was at work restoring life for the world, taking our sin and death up into himself in Jesus Christ in order that we might be saved.
- Jesus' followers are not called to avoid suffering but to willingly enter into it for the sake of others.
- The Emmaus Road that is filled with disillusionment and dashed hopes is to be a well-worn road by those of us who would follow Jesus.
- On this road we discover the presence of Jesus as we suffer with and for others, inviting them to hear Jesus' perspective on their own sorrow and despair through our faithful presence with them.

THE WORLD'S STORY—Jesus' resurrection is a re-narration of the world's story.

How can you participate in Jesus' remaking of the world?

- Jesus has overcome death, and through that God is remaking the entire world.
- Death which has held the world in bondage for so long no longer has the same hold. Jesus has dismantled its power.
- The story Jesus is telling, and the one of which he is the interpretive key, explodes open the world as we know it and ushers in God's new world teeming once again with the possibility of life.

PRAYER

(Lead your group in corporate prayer.)

Lord Jesus, we know that you are always with us through your Spirit. Give us a sense of your presence and help us to see your hand at work in the world around us. Meet with us in the midst of our daily activities, and teach us to offer up all our lives to you. In your name we pray. Amen.

WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice *missio* beyond today.)

Noticing God:

As the travelers in our story were making their way, they were too concerned to notice who was really walking with them. In our own lives, we are often too consumed or preoccupied with other things to notice the ways that God is bringing life all around us. This week intentionally begin to look for God at work in your neighborhood in ways you may never have noticed. Consider how God is at work in people you don't normally notice. Consider how God is at work in your family in ways you haven't seen before. Spend some time journaling your observations each day.

- How do you see God at work where you hadn't before?
- How does that make you more aware of God's life-giving work in the world?
- Where do you sense God is calling you more deeply into life with him in his mission?

BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God's Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

Passages for further reflection this week:

- *Isaiah 7*
- *Matthew 28:16-20*
- *1 Corinthians 11:17-33*
- *1 Corinthians 15*

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above Scriptures. Reflect on how the passage is God's story, my story, others' story, and the world's story. In the context of Luke 24:13-35, consider the following questions:

How are these Scripture passages related to the message in Luke 24:13-35?

How do these Scriptures tell us about the story of God being continued from Luke 24:13-35?

What is God saying to you through these passages?

Consider other passages that you might know related to Luke 24:13-35 and read them this week, journaling as you go.