

Village Guide

Current Series: Vivid (#4)

Texts: Luke 24.13-32 CEB

Core Value Focus: Transformation

Big Ideas from the Message:

- Big Idea: Jesus desires that our belief in him will develop into a friendship with him.
 - Kurt also discussed how connecting with Jesus as a friend is a process. He gave the analogy of when he became a dad for the first time. At first it was hard to connect. But over time, the relationship to his daughter was central to his life... even if still having challenges.
 - Luke 24.13-32 was read
- Recognizing Jesus as a companion is hard.
- Friendship with Jesus requires the increasing liberation of our imagination.
- Ambiguity is central to growing as a companion of Jesus.
- Noticing Jesus changes everything.
 - Kurt showed a video of a dad who saw color, with high-tech glasses, for the first time.

CONNECT (5 min)

- Question chosen for group discussion or someone pre-invited to share their story. (Optional)

HEAR (5 min)

- Spend some time in your group sharing what you recall from Sunday's message. Give a loose theme or subject of the sermon to jumpstart everyone's thoughts and recollections. (Example: *On Sunday, Kurt (or another speaker) started/continued our series. Who was there on Sunday? Can you recap the content for us? What struck you, and what questions did it leave you with?*)
- Read Luke 24.13-32 (CEB). What did Kurt say that this passage reveals about God? About us? Do you see anything differently or that wasn't mentioned in this particular sermon?

TALK (20 min)

*Note: This format is intentionally less linear in an effort to generate discussion. It is not meant to be followed left-to-right, nor do all the questions need to be asked. As a facilitator, stewarding good discussion means modeling **true listening**, which also means a conversation without an agenda. Use your discernment to see what your group needs to talk about.*

<i>Conceptual</i>	<i>Practical Implications</i>	<i>Spiritual Formation</i>
Scripture	Regular Life	Transformation
<p>Even though the followers of Jesus, in the first century, saw him as eyewitnesses, they often doubted. Given that we do not have the same physical proximity to Jesus as they would have had, what grace does that offer us when we have challenges or doubts about Jesus? How can doubts create space to grow our friendship with Jesus?</p> <p>What sorts of things do you imagine that Jesus and the disciples spoke about as they traveled to Emmaus? The passage gives us generalities; consider unpacking their journey a bit. How might you imagine it?</p> <p>On the road to Emmaus, Jesus gently traveled with these disciples who didn't recognize him right away. Why might it have been an important enough story for Luke (the oldest gospel besides John) to include? What sorts of "pastoral" concerns might it have addressed in the first century? How might this story illustrate the ways in which Jesus journeys with us?</p>	<p>When you think about your own spiritual journey, what is a barrier that gets in the way of engaging with Jesus as a friend?</p> <p>If you were to consider your spiritual journey even more, on the spectrum of: 1) little to no belief in Jesus— 2) to belief in/about Jesus— 3) to friendship with Jesus, how might you describe this point in your life? Perhaps you land somewhere in-between or even feel that all three of these are experienced at some level. This is not a question to label or box anyone in, but to stimulate helpful conversation.</p> <p>How do your human relationships affect the way you view the idea of a friendship with Jesus? Positively? Negatively? Mixed?</p>	<p><i>Take a few minutes of silence to think of what your current experience of life these past couple weeks have been like. (Give a few minutes for reflection before asking the question).</i></p> <p>Where did you notice Jesus last week? Did you notice him at the time or just now in reflection? What would it look like to notice Jesus, more often, in the regular moments of the day?</p> <p>What do you sense Jesus is saying to you right now? Can you notice any themes emerging within your group?</p> <p>If you were to imagine one space in your life—a consistent space—where it is regular enough to plan for in advance: Where is one place/space/time where you could consciously acknowledge that Jesus is with you and notice him? (Ideas: during a specific task at work that happens each day; during a regular study block; at the gym in the morning; etc.). Consider debriefing this some next week.</p>

(Space for your own questions or notes)

LIVE (20 min)

- How might this conversation impact you this next week? What are you taking with you?
- How might we pray for each other based on this conversation and other highs/lows in life?