



Week 1

These weekly studies are loosely based on the previous Sunday's sermon. If you missed it, you will find a recording on our website (www.knaphillbaptist.org.uk). They are designed for both Home Group discussion and/or personal reflection. Don't necessarily try to cover all the questions and discussion topics in your group at one sitting. You may like to think about them later in your own time.



Read Luke 24:13-35

This is the first in a series of studies tracing the Journey from Easter to Pentecost as told by Doctor Luke firstly, in the Gospel that bears his name, and then secondly, in his sequel to the gospel story, also penned by him, the book we know as the Acts of the Apostles (although in reality it records the dynamic work of God the Holy Spirit *through* the Apostles (and others) in the early days of the New Testament Church. All this is important for us because this same dynamic – the fruit of all that Jesus made possible through his death and resurrection – is available for us today ... as the Apostle Peter made clear in his sermon on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38,39). It has been suggested that the biggest problem we face today is the failure to enter this dynamic. Too many of us, in our journey, get stuck between Easter and Pentecost. How can we best overcome this problem?

Questions and pointers for discussion/reflection

1. 'Some fundamentalists know much about the *doctrine* of the Holy Spirit and too little about the *dynamic* of the Holy Spirit. Though every believer has the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit does not have every believer. In steering clear of 'wild fire' fanaticism, many of God's children have only the 'no fire' of formalism!' ~ A W Tozer. Do you agree with this statement? Unpack the thinking behind it.
2. Look again at Luke 24:13-25. In this story two people (Cleopas and Mrs Cleopas?) are on a journey. Where does the journey begin ... and where does it end? What do we learn here about our own journey?
3. Luke tells us here that as they journeyed these two were 'talking with each other about everything' (v.14) and 'discussing these things' (v.15). Clearly their 'talking' and 'discussion' was unhelpful because initially they failed to 'recognise' Jesus' presence as a result (v.16). What was it about their talk/discussion/attitude/ approach that was so unhelpful to them/each other? What does the Bible have to teach us about the importance of positive (rather than negative) conversation (see Ephesians 4:29-32; Colossians 4:2-6; 1 Timothy 4:12, etc).
4. What was Jesus' response to their negativity? How did he help them to understand what was happening around them in a different way? (vs.17-27). In what ways do we misuse the Bible? What gift has God given us to help us interpret the teaching of Scripture correctly (see 2 Peter 1:19-21).
5. The Bible tells us that God has 'plans' and 'purposes' for us, both as individuals and as a church (Jeremiah 29:11; Ephesians 2:10). Mr and Mrs Cleopas nearly missed out on God's plan and purpose for them? Luke tells us here that when they arrived at Emmaus 'Jesus was about to continue on in his journey' (v.28). Is it possible for us to 'miss out' on God's plan and purpose for us (see Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19)? What did these two do to avoid this happening?
6. How did Jesus make himself known to these two in a new and deeper way (vs.30-32)? The word 'sacramental' implies 'a means of special grace'. Why is the 'Communion Service' so important? In what way is 'opening up the Scriptures' sacramental?
7. What was the first thing Mr and Mrs Cleopas did as a result of their 'burning hearts' experience (vs.33-35)?