



## Week 2

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](http://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 24:36-45

This is the second in a series of studies tracing the Journey from Easter to Pentecost as told by Luke in his two books: *The Gospel of Luke*, and the follow-up volume, *The Acts of the Apostles*. In this part of the story we see the Risen Jesus suddenly appearing to his disciples as they gather in the comparative safety of the Upper Room. Their minds remain 'full of doubt' (v.38) and they desperately need Jesus to 'open their minds to understand' (v.45). In much the same way we too need to experience the ongoing 'renewal of our minds' (Romans 12:2).

### Questions and pointers for discussion/reflection

1. The Rev Ernest Forward was once asked why there were so many professing Christians who had 'fallen away' over the years? After a moment's thought he replied: 'I think that it is because although they may have given their hearts to the Lord, they haven't given their minds to him as well!' What do you think about this?
2. The first thing Jesus says to his disciples here is 'Peace be with you' (v.36). The word 'peace' here means 'the peace that comes from knowing we are held in the palm of God's hand'. It is the equivalent of the Hebrew 'shalom' meaning 'wholeness'. Why should we know this peace as Christians?
3. The second thing Jesus says to his disciples here is 'Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your minds?' (v.38). Why were the disciples troubled/full of doubt? Is doubt irrational?
4. How did Jesus help them to overcome their doubts (vs.39-44)? Which of the things mentioned here do you find personally most helpful?
5. Jesus 'opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures' (v.45). How does the Bible help us come to terms with/overcome our doubts and fears?
6. The Apostle Peter exhorts us to 'gird up the loins of our minds' (1 Peter 1:13). The picture drawn here is of a man (of those times) running somewhere who gathers up his robe to do so, so that he doesn't trip himself up. What is Peter telling us we need to do with our minds here through this picture?
7. The Apostle Paul exhorts us to 'have the mind of Christ' (Philippians 2:5). What does he mean by this? How does what Paul say in 1 Corinthians 2:9-16 help us put this into practice?
8. Many people (including many Christians?) fail to recognise that our thinking needs drastically changing when we come to Christ. Our minds are naturally sinful and need renewing just as much as the rest of us. Why is this so (see Romans 8:5-8)?
9. The 'renewal of our minds' (Romans 12:2) is an ongoing process (present continuous tense). What does Paul have to say here in Romans 12:1,2 that helps us to experience this ongoing renewal of our minds?
10. Reflect on such Scriptures as Colossians 3:1,2; Philippians 4:8,9. What do these verses teach us? Can you think of any similar verses? How can we practice what we are encouraged to do here?