



GROWTH GROUP

Third Sunday of Easter

Week of 4/26/2020

Most of our celebrations are very brief. The festival of Easter, however, inspires a certain “afterglow” that by God’s grace burns ever brighter as we celebrate anew each Sunday during the Easter season. Led by the Spirit to believe in the resurrected Lord, we rejoice in holy awe in this glorious truth and are filled with a desire to speak of our hope with others.

Getting Started

What foreign places have you been to before? *Answers will vary.* Don’t just share the location, share the experience of living as a foreigner.

Into the Word

Read **Luke 24:13-35**.

Why do you think Jesus didn’t reveal his identity to the Emmaus disciples? *It gave the disciples the chance to openly confess their unbelieving doubts.* Jesus was providing them the opportunity to learn from him again as he reviewed what the Scriptures had to say about the Messiah. This experience also gave these disciples the confidence that they knew where to find him. Though he would be leaving them physically, they could always find him in the Scriptures. And they would always trust the Scriptures were true, because they knew they were fulfilled.

Once Jesus reveals himself, these quickly go back to Jerusalem even though they had told him not to go on traveling because it was getting late. What made them travel despite the darkness and approaching night? *Their hearts were burning within them. They couldn’t keep the joy of this wonderful message to themselves, so they had to tell the others in Jerusalem.*

What can we learn from this account on the road to Emmaus? *We need exactly what they received from Jesus. Through the Word we too need a call to repentance because of our foolish and slow hearts. We need a renewed sense of joy that the message of Easter gives us so that with the wonder of our risen Savior before us, we are compelled to proclaim the Easter message to others.*

Jesus waited to show his disciples that he was alive until they saw him in the Scriptures. That’s where we see him too. What parts of Scripture have especially helped you to see and understand Jesus for who he really is? *Answers will vary based on personal experience.*

Read **1 Peter 1:17-21**.

Why does Peter encourage us to live as “strangers” while here on this earth? It will always be a temptation for Christians to set their hearts on what they can see—material things, institutions, approval from others, etc. It is a lifelong struggle to learn that everything visible is perishable while what is not seen has lasting value. As Christians, we need to remember that we live in tents—temporary settings—because we are not yet home.

How does knowing you are a foreigner on this earth change the way you live or feel? Everything here is temporary—everything we have, everything that happens. Therefore, everything here matters relatively. But our home and being there matters ultimately. That will impact the way we spend our time and possessions. What good comes from hoarding them or trusting in them? What good comes from using them to point others home to heaven? So, we don’t expect to be too comfortable here, because this is not what we want forever. The conditions of this sinful world often remind us of that.

Consider and discuss all that is communicated in verse 20’s phrase “He [Christ] was chosen before the creation of the world.” Before God created us, he already had chosen the plan of our salvation with Christ on the cross. And he loved us enough that he still went through with it. Consider this gospel love of God and discuss the depth of it as a group.

Apply

Apply your hope as a Christian and your status as a foreigner/stranger here to the current health crisis. We don’t expect to be too comfortable here. Everything here is temporary—this crisis as well as our health. We balance those realities to live with Christian perspective.

Around the Room

Share your highs and lows for the week.

Pray