

Teaching Notes- Luke 24:36-53

For a one-hour, interactive, inductive study using a manuscript of the text.

Note: the key to this study is to have the group generate questions based on and flowing out of the text, then spend the bulk of the time answering the questions together. In this way you interpret the text as a group. Then the teacher summarizes the main points, and leads the group in processing (“applying”) the passage.

Note: These notes are only SUGGESTIONS. It is very important for you to develop your own study, and practice it before leading it at Urbana!

1 minute- Introduction to the Study

- **context:** Two days before this Jesus was crucified. Then on the third day He rose, and two angels told this good news to the brave women who came to the tomb, who told the story to the disciples, who did not believe them. Then, Jesus appeared to two men on the road to Emmaus. The two men have just come to the disciples and “told them what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when He broke the bread.”
- **For Urbana:** Last night at Urbana was “commitment night.” Paul Borthwick gave a powerful talk on commitment to Jesus, and delegates were urged to seek God for what He wants them to do to respond to His call to world mission. The “Commitment Card” was introduced and explained, with the challenge to fill it in this morning during or after the Bible study. So the delegates will be seeing the power and call of the resurrected Jesus in this passage as they grapple with what He is calling them to do specifically.
- **Intro. to how to enter the text:**

Creative idea: You are the radio news reporter who has been given a special assignment to go to this home and describe the events to your radio audience. Describe these events for your radio audience in the breathless way a radio announcer would.

OR

Review three ways to enter a text:

1. Find the specifics by answering the “newspaper questions” – who, what, when, where, how?
2. Find relationships or “connections” in the text. Are there words or phrases that repeat? That are similar? That contrast? A cause that leads to an effect? Mark them.
3. Put yourself emotionally into the story. Become a character in the story. What are you seeing, feeling, smelling, experiencing?

5 minutes. Pray, and give them time for personal study, using the ideas for entering the text you have just told them. Also, tell them to write down questions they might have: “As you are reading and studying the passage, write down any questions you may have that jump out at you from the text. Is there anything that interests or intrigues you? Anything you don’t understand?”

15 Minutes. Have some folks do their radio report. Share observations and questions about the passage together. Just note the questions as they share them, don’t work at answering them yet. Keep this part lively.

20 minutes- (the heart of the study!) Walk through the passage again and answer in sequence the main questions that they had. Work on answers together from the text. Here are some of the main questions we hope they come up with, and some possible answers.

Question	Possible Answer
<p>What is the “this” that they were talking about in line 1? What had gone on just before this?</p>	<p>Jesus had risen from the dead! A number of women were at the empty tomb and reported this to the disciples, but they didn’t believe the women. Then Jesus approached to the two men on the road to Emmaus, and they had just returned to the disciples and told them that they had seen Jesus.</p>
<p>How are the disciples feeling? What is the source of their dread or disbelief?</p>	<p>Luke includes a long list of “startle” words (“startled,” “terrified,” “thought they were seeing a ghost,” “frightened,” “doubts,” “disbelieving,” “wondering”). Even though they walked with Jesus for three years, it doesn’t seem like the disciples really believed that He would rise from the dead, or didn’t understand His promise that He would. At best, they seemed to think that the resurrected Jesus standing before them was a disembodied ghost.</p>
<p>Why did Jesus have them look at His hands and feet, and touch Him. What is up with eating the fish in front of them?</p>	<p>Jesus is really risen! He is really alive! He is not a ghost or disembodied spirit, it really is Jesus who was standing among them!! It is so important for us as well as the disciples to grasp this with our minds and hearts, and sense the wonder of it.</p> <p>Also, Jesus was trying to show them what a resurrected body it like: it seems it can go through walls, yet it is also clearly the person, and that person can be recognized. The resurrected body can also eat!</p>
<p>What does it mean that Jesus “opened their minds to understand the Scriptures”?</p>	<p>Jesus had been teaching them the Scriptures for three years. But He also had to give them spiritual understanding. It seems that it is possible to study or hear the Scriptures and yet still not “understand” them in their deepest sense unless one also seeks Jesus for understanding..</p>
<p>Jesus once again summarizes the Old Testament teaching concerning Himself. What would be unusual in His summary and</p>	<p>Jesus says that repentance and forgiveness need to be preached “to the nations.” He takes the Gospel beyond the Jewish culture of the</p>

challenge for a group of Jewish disciples?	disciples and challenges them to tell it to the world, to all of the nations!
How does Jesus encourage them as well as challenge them?	He reminds them that they are actual physical witnesses to these things, He promises to do what the Father had promised, to clothe them with power from on high." Then He blessed them.
What are some of the ultimate effects that the appearance of Jesus has on the disciples?	They meet the resurrected Jesus. They talk to Him. They hear His call to the nations and promise of power. They respond in the way we have been trying to respond to Him at Urbana-- with worship, joy and praise.

5 minutes- Summary:

Jesus is alive!! He is really here. He appeared to the disciples and transformed them. He overcame their initial skepticism, confusion, and amazement by proving that He really is Himself and really alive and really there. He had them touch His wounds, and He ate a breakfast fish before them to show He is really a person and not a ghost. Then He opened their minds to understand the true meaning of the Scriptures— that they all point to Him— and called them to be witnesses to the nations. He then ascended to heaven, and the disciples responded to all of these events with joy, praise, and worship.

10 minutes- Process/apply. (Don't "skimp" on this time!!)

POSSIBLE application questions, depending on where God is has been leading the group as they see the main points of the passage. Pick no more than two:

Jesus is alive! Take some time to praise Him for the fact that He is really here, really alive. What does His "aliveness" mean to you? Think of a specific benefit of the fact that He is real, and really alive, and praise Him for it.

Jesus calls His disciples to preach repentance and forgiveness to the nations. What part is Jesus calling you to have in sharing His Good News with the nations? How will you respond to His call in specific ways? This would be a good time to pray over and fill in your Urbana Commitment Card, and respond to Him with a specific commitment. Remember, He promises you the power to do what He has called you to do.

Jesus opened the minds of His disciples to understand the Scriptures. How is your time in the Scriptures? Are you learning to understand the Scriptures? Are you crying out to God for insight, and also learning to study the Bible deeply? How can you grow in specific ways in your understanding of the Scriptures? This may involved joining a deep, committed Bible study group, or committing time each week for personal study of the Bible.

What areas of life or faith are you confused or discouraged by? From this passage, what are ways you can expect Jesus to address these? Ask Him to meet you in these areas.