



Emmaus Road: What did Jesus Explain? Leaders Guide



Note: I have often wondered what Jesus said to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus! This outline looks at how some of the Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled that first Easter. It was written for groups who are very familiar with the events of Easter and would be interested in a fresh approach.

Aim/s select from

- To look at what Jesus may have said to the disciples as they walked to Emmaus.
- To show how the prophecies provide evidence that the Bible is reliable.
- To show that we need the Holy Spirit's help when we read the Bible.

Starters: The theme is about recognition. Select from

- Ask for stories where someone has not recognised someone they knew well. We usually see and hear what we **expect** to see and hear.
- What do you see? - A PowerPoint with images that can be seen in 2 ways
- Blind man's bluff. Play a version of this that would be appropriate for your group. Someone is blindfolded and has to recognise a person (or object) by feeling a 'safe' part of their body such as their head or hand.

Read or tell the Emmaus Road story Luke 24:13-35

Luke 24:27 'Then starting with what Moses¹ and all the prophets had said about him, Jesus began to explain everything that had been written about himself in the Scriptures.'

Introduction: Have you ever wondered what Jesus talked to these disciples about as they walked to Emmaus? There are over 300 Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. The earliest is in Genesis when God spoke to the serpent after Eve had sinned –

Genesis 3:15 One of her descendants will crush your head, and you will bite his heel."

Then there are many stories about Abraham and Isaac, Joseph, the Passover and others which pave the way for the Messiah story with their amazing parallels. Prophecies such as the psalms of David were written about 1000 BC. Zechariah spoke the last prophecy concerning the Messiah about 480 years before he came to earth.

Activity: Use the activity sheets for a Bible study approach or the matching card game for a more game-based session. Both are on the web site. Edit as required.

Discuss: Could the fulfilment of these prophecies have been faked?

Application

Luke 24:32 They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" NLT

The disciples who were walking to Emmaus that day had read those scriptures many times but they had never 'seen' their full true meaning. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to help us to 'see' what he wants to teach us from the Bible as we read it. When that happens, it's exciting and 'our hearts burn within us'.

¹ Deuteronomy 18:15

Leader's background Notes

Here are some of the prophecies concerning what would happen to the Messiah with the matching gospel references.

Palm Sunday - The Triumphant entry to Jerusalem. Matthew 21:1-16

Note: In ancient times, kings such as David rode on donkeys in times of peace, and only used horses for war. A donkey was therefore a symbol of both peace and ancient kingship to the Jewish people.

1 Kings 1:32-40

Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey— riding on a donkey's colt. NLT

Psalms 118:26-27 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. From the house of the Lord we bless you. The Lord is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar. NIV

Psalms 8:2 You have taught children and babies to sing praises to you because of your enemies. And so you silence your enemies and destroy those who try to get even. NCV

Monday – throwing the traders out of the Temple. Matthew 21:12-13

Psalms 69:9 Passion for your house has consumed me, and the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me. NLT

Wednesday – Judas decided to betray Jesus. Luke 23:3-6 & 21-23; Matthew 27:3-10;

Psalms 41 v.9 My best and truest friend, who ate at my table, has even turned against me. NCV

Zechariah 11:12-13

Then I said, "If you want to pay me, pay me. If not, then don't." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. The Lord said to me, "Throw the money to the potter." That is how little they thought I was worth. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter in the Temple of the Lord. NCV (*This was about the price paid for a slave.*)

Thursday

The arrest Matthew 26:47-56, especially verse 56

Zechariah 13:7 "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, the man who is my partner," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. "Strike down the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered, and I will turn against the lambs. NLT

The trial and beatings Mark 14:53-65; Mark 15:1-20

Psalm 35:11 Malicious witnesses testify against me. They accuse me of crimes I know nothing about. NLT (also Psalm 27:12)

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.
NLT

Psalm 38:13-14 But I am deaf to all their threats. I am silent before them as one who cannot speak. I choose to hear nothing, and I make no reply. NLT

Psalm 109:2-5 Wicked people and liars have spoken against me; they have told lies about me. They have said hateful things about me and attack me for no reason. They attacked me, even though I loved them and prayed for them. I was good to them, but they repay me with evil. I loved them, but they hate me in return. NCV

Isaiah 1:6 From the sole of your foot to the top of your head there is no soundness – only wounds and bruises and open sores, not cleansed or bandaged or soothed with oil. NIV
John 19:1-3

Friday Mark 15:21-39; Luke 23:46; John 19:31-37;

Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53

Psalm 22 is full of prophecies and describes the details of a crucifixion, 400 years before the Persians invented it. NIV/ NLT

Psalm 22 1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? Matthew 27:46

6 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people.

7 All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads:

8 "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."

14 My life is poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax, melting within me.

15 My strength has dried up like sunbaked clay. My tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth. You have laid me in the dust and left me for dead.

16 My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on me. They have pierced my hands and feet.

17 I can count all my bones. My enemies stare at me and gloat.

18 They divide my garments among themselves and throw dice for my clothing.

Psalm 69:21 They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst.

Psalm 109:25 My enemies insult me; they look at me and shake their heads. NCV

Amos 8:9 "In that day," declares the Sovereign LORD,
"I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight." NIV

Psalm 31:5 Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O LORD, the God of truth. NIV

Psalm 34:20 He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.

Exodus 12:46 Passover lamb... do not break any of its bones.

Burial Matthew 27:57-60

Isaiah 53:9 He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, NIV

Sunday - Resurrection Matthew 27:62-66; Matthew 28:1-10

Hosea 6:2 In two days he will put new life in us; on the third day he will raise us up so that we may live in his presence NCV

Psalm 16:10 Because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. NIV

Psalm 49:15 But as for me, God will redeem my life. He will snatch me from the power of the grave. NLT

Credits

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