

The Road To Emmaus

Luke 24:13-35

MEMORY VERSE

LUKE 24:27

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

As many 8.5"x11" pieces of paper as the number of children in your class, stickers and crayons, or markers.

Several 8.5"x11" matching cards with prophecies concerning the Messiah.

Fruit like bananas, grapes, and pineapple chunks, paper or Styrofoam cups, tongs or a spoon, and forks.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

What Is Encouragement?

Have your children make a card with an encouraging note or happy picture (according to age appropriateness). Fold an 8.5"x11" paper in half for each card. Have your children use stickers and markers or crayons to produce their encouraging cards.

Give the cards to an outreach ministry in your church and have the cards distributed to nursing home residents, shut-ins, or hospital patients.

Explain to your class the meaning of encouragement and how **We can find encouragement in the promises of God's word.**

LESSON TIME!

All of us can relate to the two individuals in our lesson today, because, at some point in our life, we have all experienced some time of discouragement. The Lord knows we need encouragement. In our lesson today, we will see Jesus giving encouragement to two of His disciples through the promises of God's word. **We can find encouragement in the promises of God's word.**

LUKE 24:13-16

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem.

And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.

But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

This was Resurrection Day, the day we celebrate Jesus rising from the dead to give us a future of hope and life for eternity. Because of the resurrection, we know that death has been conquered and we will be raised from the dead to live forever with Christ. The resurrection was the greatest event in the history of mankind.

Though this day should have been a day of celebration, the two men walking from Jerusalem to Emmaus were discouraged disciples who had no reason to be discouraged. They had heard of the women's reports that the tomb of Jesus was empty and that He was alive, but they would not believe them.

Disappointment filled their hearts with despair, since they had thought Jesus would redeem Israel. They saw the glory of the kingdom, but they failed to understand the suffering that Jesus had to go through. These men didn't understand what God said in His word about His plan and His promises. Their world had crumbled around them and they needed encouragement. **We can find encouragement in the promises of God's word.**

LUKE 24:17-24

And He said to them, "What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?"

Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?"

And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,

and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him.

But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.

Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us.

When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive.

And certain of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but Him they did not see."

What a beautiful picture of how Jesus comforts us in our time of distress. These two disciples had all the evidence they needed to believe that He rose from the dead, but they walked in unbelief. Their real problem was not in their heads, but in their hearts. They needed a fresh understanding of the word of God, and Jesus gave that understanding to them. **We can find encouragement in the promises of God's word.** We can put our confidence and hope in the promises of God's word because He is able to complete it.

The disciples from Emmaus were counting on Jesus to rescue Israel. Most Jews believed that the Old Testament prophecies pointed to a military and political Messiah. They believed that the Messiah would come to rule and reign at that time. They didn't realize that the Messiah had come to rescue people's souls. When Jesus died, they lost hope. They didn't understand that Jesus' death offered the greatest hope available.

LUKE 24:25-27

Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?"

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Prophecy Matching Game

Prior to class, make several cards on 8.5"x11" pieces of paper with prophecies concerning the Messiah. Make sure you make two of each prophecy so each has a match.

Lay these cards face down on the ground and play a matching game with your class. Each child may take a turn at turning over two cards. If they match, they may keep the cards and take another turn. If they don't match, the next child may have a turn.

The child with the most pairs at the end of the game is the winner. This child can be rewarded by being given the privilege of passing out the snack for the class.

Why did Jesus call these men foolish? Cleopas and his companion failed to believe and understand all that the prophets had written about the Messiah's suffering. That was the problem with most of the Jews of that day. They saw Messiah as a conquering Redeemer, but they didn't see Him as a suffering servant.

God promised us salvation through the suffering and death of His Son. God's offer of salvation will never disappoint us. Jesus will never let us down. Because He now lives, we may be encouraged, never disappointed, to know that everyone who believes in Him will be saved (Romans 10:10-11).

After the two disciples expressed their discouragement in what had happened, Jesus lovingly answered them by going to the scripture and applying it to His ministry. They needed the encouragement of God's word. When we are discouraged or puzzled by questions or problems, **we can find encouragement in the promises of God's word.** Romans 15:4 tells us, "For whatever was written in earlier times were written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

LUKE 24:28-31

Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther.

But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them.

Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

As Jesus began to walk away, the disciples asked Him to come home with them. They had been encouraged by the word of God and desired for the blessing to last. The more we receive the word of God, the more we want the fellowship of the word of God. Jesus opened the Scriptures to them and then He opened their eyes so that they recognized Him. Now they knew for themselves that He was alive.

LUKE 24:32-35

And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"

So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together,

saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

Vanishing from their sight, Jesus left them with the comfort of knowing that He was alive and that God's word was true. Jesus had made things very plain and clear to them; a divine heat and a divine light burned in their souls. Their hearts burned within, kindled with a holy fire of faith towards their Savior, Jesus.

God's word can warm our hearts with the peace of His promises. It both instructs and comforts us, giving us a holy desire and devotion within our heart to worship Him. **We can find encouragement in the promises of God's word.**

The disciples were so excited and overwhelmed with joy that they made their way back to Jerusalem that very hour. They had seen Jesus, and God's promises were true. There was no time to waste; they couldn't wait to tell their friends what had happened.

Has Jesus made a difference in your life? These two men were changed and they wanted others to experience the same hope and joy which is found through Jesus and His word.

Many people around us live a life without hope, filled with discouragement. Jesus can make the life-changing difference, but we need to tell them. Jesus is alive, and we can trust in His promises. **We can find encouragement in the promises of God's word.**

“Encouragement” for the Body

Have your children help you prepare fruit cups for the class snack-time. While preparing your snack, explain how our bodies need nourishment to grow and live and be healthy, just like our spirits need encouragement from God's word.

Wash the fruit thoroughly. Cut bananas, remove grapes from bunches, and have the children use tongs or spoons to fill Styrofoam cups with the fruit snack.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving for the promises of God's word. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them an opportunity to do so.