

Small Group Questions

Week of April 12, 2026

1. Would you say you are someone who is easily discouraged? What tends to lead you toward discouragement?
2. What are some recent discouragements you've been facing?
3. When you're feeling down, do you tend to withdraw and be alone, or do you prefer to be around others?
4. Have you ever experienced spiritual disappointment—such as an unanswered prayer or a difficult church relationship? Why do you think disappointment in the church can feel especially painful?

Read **Luke 24:13–35**

5. What disappointments were the two disciples experiencing as they left Jerusalem?
 - Why is it significant that they were walking *away* from Jerusalem?
6. What process did Jesus take the disciples through to help reframe their discouragement?
 - How did He use Scripture to reshape their understanding of what had happened?
7. Jesus is somewhat mysterious in this passage. What stands out to you about His actions and behavior? What might be the purpose behind it.
8. What specifically led to the moment when their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus?
 - Why do you think He revealed Himself in that way?
9. The disciples said, "*Were not our hearts burning within us...?*"
 - What do you think they meant by that?
 - Have you ever experienced something similar spiritually?
10. Do you think Jesus' *presence* or His *process* had the greater impact on the disciples? Why?
11. Is it surprising that Jesus appeared to these two disciples before meeting with the apostles?
 - What might this reveal about His heart and priorities?
12. Why do you think it took time for both the disciples and the apostles to recognize Jesus?
 - How might this relate to how people come to faith today?
13. What changed in the disciples that caused them to immediately return to Jerusalem and share the news?
 - What does it look like for discouragement to turn into action in our lives?
14. If you are currently experiencing discouragement, what is one step you can take this week to recalibrate your heart toward hope?
15. Why was it important that the disciples returned to others and shared their experience?
 - How does community help strengthen our faith when we're struggling?
16. Based on this passage, what spiritual lessons can we learn about helping others move from discouragement to hope in Jesus?