

## LESSON TWELVE

# SEEING JESUS

*Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"*

LUKE 24:31-32



## REFLECTION

If you know Jesus personally, it is likely that someone introduced him to you. Perhaps many people were involved in your coming to faith. Take a few minutes to think about the people through whom God worked to communicate his message of love to you. Who helped you understand your need for a relationship with Jesus? How did they do this?

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## SITUATION

Luke tells us that on the first day of the week, several women went to Jesus' tomb but found it empty. As they stood wondering about this, two angels appeared and told them that Jesus had risen from the dead. The news spread like wildfire . . . though Jesus' followers had a hard time accepting it. Two believers left Jerusalem and headed to Emmaus. As they walked and talked, another man joined them—a man who asked interesting questions and seemed curiously ignorant of the recent events. The travelers were amazed at how much the stranger knew about Jesus and the ancient Scriptures. His companionship was so warm they couldn't resist inviting him to stay with them for the evening. That's when their eyes were really opened.

## OBSERVATION

*Read Luke 24:13–35 from the New International Version or the New King James Version.*

## NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION

<sup>13</sup> Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup> but they were kept from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup> He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

<sup>19</sup> "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. <sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup> but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. <sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly,

“Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

<sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

<sup>33</sup> They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” <sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

#### NEW KING JAMES VERSION

<sup>13</sup> Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And they talked together of all these things which had happened. <sup>15</sup> So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. <sup>16</sup> But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him.

<sup>17</sup> And He said to them, “What kind of conversation is this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?”

<sup>18</sup> 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?”

<sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. <sup>23</sup> When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels

who said He was alive. <sup>24</sup> 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.”

<sup>25</sup> Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” <sup>27</sup> And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

<sup>28</sup> Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. <sup>29</sup> 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.

<sup>30</sup> 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. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight.

<sup>32</sup> 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?” <sup>33</sup> So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, <sup>34</sup> saying, “The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup> And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

## EXPLORATION

1. What did the men say about Jesus? How did Jesus respond to them?

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2. Why do you think Jesus did not make himself known to the men?

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3. What did the men do after they realized Jesus had been in their midst?

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4. What prevents people today from recognizing Jesus as Savior?

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5. In what different ways does Jesus reveal himself to people today?

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6. What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping us see Jesus?

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## INSPIRATION

*Jesus.* Have you seen him? Those who first did were never the same. "My Lord and my God!" cried Thomas.

"I have seen the Lord," exclaimed Mary Magdalene.

"We have seen his glory," declared John.

"Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked?" rejoiced the two Emmaus-bound disciples.

But Peter said it best. "We were eyewitnesses of his majesty."

His Majesty. The emperor of Judah. The soaring eagle of eternity. The noble admiral of the Kingdom. All the splendor of heaven revealed in a human body. For a period ever so brief, the doors to the throne room were open and God came near. His Majesty was seen. Heaven

touched the earth and, as a result, earth can know heaven. In astounding tandem a human body housed divinity. Holiness and earthliness intertwined.

This is no run-of-the-mill messiah. His story was extraordinary. He called himself divine, yet allowed a minimum-wage Roman soldier to drive a nail into his wrist. He demanded purity, yet stood for the rights of a repentant whore. He called men to march, yet refused to allow them to call him King. He sent men into all the world, yet equipped them with only bended knees and memories of a resurrected carpenter.

We can't regard him as simply a good teacher. His claims are too outrageous to limit him to the company of Socrates or Aristotle. Nor can we categorize him as one of many prophets sent to reveal eternal truths. His own claims eliminate that possibility.

Has it been a while since you have seen him? If your prayers seem stale, it probably has. If your faith seems to be trembling, perhaps your vision of him has blurred. If you can't find power to face your problems, perhaps it is time to face him. (From *God Came Near* by Max Lucado.)

## REACTION

7. In what way can meeting Jesus change a person's life?

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8. What was your first encounter with Jesus? What enabled you to see him as the Messiah?

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**9.** In what ways has your relationship with Jesus grown and matured?

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**10.** What are some ways that life's problems and disappointments interfere with our communion with God?

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**11.** What can believers do when God seems far away?

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**12.** What steps can you take to nurture your relationship with Jesus?

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## LIFE LESSONS

Perhaps this study has turned into a "road to Emmaus" lesson for you. You thought you knew Jesus, but you've discovered there's a lot more to him than you realized. Only you can determine if this was the beginning of a relationship or the deepening of one. But you can be sure of this: even as Jesus made himself unexpectedly available and known to those disciples on the road, he will do the same for you. At times when you least expect him, he will show up and make a difference. Live your life *for* him, and you will be delighted with how often you notice you're living *with* him.

## DEVOTION

*Father, thank you for sending your Son to free us from the penalty of sin. Thank you that he rose from the dead and lives today. And thank you for giving us your Holy Spirit to help us recognize and accept Jesus as our Savior. Guide us into a deeper relationship with you, so that when we go through difficult times, we can run to you and rest secure in your presence. Thank you for showing up on our road of life, too.*

## JOURNALING

How has meeting Jesus had an impact on your life?

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## FOR FURTHER READING

To complete the book of Luke during this twelve-part study, read Luke 24:1–53. For more Bible passages on knowing Jesus, see John 10:14–27; Ephesians 1:15–17; Philippians 3:8–10; 2 Timothy 1:12; and 1 John 2:3–6, 29; 3:1–3; 4:13–16.