

ALIVE

FACILITATOR GUIDE

CPC HAPPENINGS...

SONG CAFE

Saturday, April 10 , 6 pm
Join us for coffee & music.

BAPTISM

Sunday, April 11
Please register to participate:
yourcpc.church/events

COMEDY NIGHT

Featuring Jeff Allen and
Chad Thornberry
Saturday, April 24
To find more info or to get your tickets:
yourcpc.church/events

HE IS RISEN!

Luke 24:1-9— But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. 2 And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. 4 While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. 5 And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? 6 He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” 8 And they remembered his words, 9 and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest.

Name someone special to you who has died that you would love to see and talk to again.

What would you talk to them about? What would you ask them? What would you like to tell them?

How excited do you think these women would have been to find the tomb empty?

The Scripture says the stone door had been rolled away from the tomb, yet we find that after the resurrection Jesus appeared and disappeared at will.

Why do you think the door of the tomb was open? [It wasn't so much to let Him out, but it was to let others in to witness the fact that He wasn't there. There were many Scriptures that indicated that after resurrection Jesus could go through doors or walls. He teleported from place to place.]

For Christians, Easter is all about that great day when Jesus walks out of the grave and sunshine hits His face again!

What do you think would have been on Jesus' mind the moment He walked out?

What was now different since He went into the grave just 3 days before? [All of mankind now has an opportunity to know Him as Savior. Their sins can now be forgiven with just a prayer of belief. The Father's ultimate plan of redemption has now been fulfilled. When He saw the sunshine, He probably didn't just see the sun—He saw THE LIGHT of God shining on the world as never before.]

When you met Jesus as your Savior, did the world seem different to you?

What seemed so different?

What would be different about your life now, if you did not know Jesus? [Who would you call on when the problems of life would get you down?]

The women ran to tell the Disciples that He was alive. They could not contain their excitement! They had to share the news they had heard.

Since you have found Jesus as Savior, do you find yourself wanting to share the news with others?

Who is someone you wish would know Jesus as Savior today?

MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS

Luke 24:13-17 — That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad.

Have you ever gone through a time when things just didn't make sense? It just seemed that if God was really in control, He wouldn't let something like this happen. That's the emotional state Jesus' closest friends were in.

What are some of the questions you think they had? [If He really was the Son of God, He shouldn't be able to die, right? Why did He allow them to beat Him so badly and crucify Him? Why didn't He stop them? He could have asked His disciples to step in and lots of people would have helped Him! If He was who He said He was, He could've defeated Rome and been our King!]

Would your conversation today change if you knew that Jesus was walking beside you listening in?

Before you speak, do you stop to consider what Jesus would think about your conversation with others?

Luke 24:18-20—Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” 19 And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened.

Even death couldn't kill Jesus' sense of humor! Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus just walking along with these two who had more questions than answers. These two followers of Jesus were not aware that He was the one walking with them. He must have rather enjoyed His “incognito” status as He walked with them because He spent several hours with them.

The road to Emmaus was 7 miles long. **[Some historians say it was closer to 7.5 miles long.]** There are many things we do not know for sure when it comes to this account. We don't know if the walkers were two men (one of them named Cleopas) or if it was a husband and wife. Because it does not give the name of the other person may suggest the other was a woman. We don't know why they heading to Emmaus. Were they going home? Were they just looking to get out of Jerusalem for their own safety?

The word “Emmaus” means **WARM BATH**. The Dead Sea is a salt-water lake. Many people go there to bathe in it for its medicinal qualities. Warm baths are said to help with high blood pressure, ease stress, change your mood, help you sleep better, relieve muscle pain, etc. Could it be that these two decided to go to Emmaus to find some relief from the stress of the last few days?

We are all on a journey. Most of the time we are trying to head to a place where things make sense, a place where we can find peace or relief. But we live in a world where life can be difficult and throw us curves that we didn't expect. You might say, we are all on the road to Emmaus. The question is, are we aware of the one who is traveling with us?

THE MESSIAH IN THE ROOM

Luke 24:28-35—So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, 29 but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

What does it say that Jesus waited to be invited to stay with them? [Jesus will not assert Himself into your life. He wants to be invited. “Anyone who calls upon the name of Jesus will be saved.” Romans 10:13.]

Would you love to spend hours talking to Jesus, or would it scare you?

Scripture says that Jesus took it upon Himself to take the bread and break it as they getting ready to eat. However, in their culture, the bread was served by the host, not by the guest. Jesus, being the guest took it upon herself to serve, would have stretched out His arms. Perhaps, it was at that point the followers may have noticed the nail-scars in Jesus’ hands. All of a sudden, their eyes were opened and they realized it was Jesus in their midst.

What do you think Cleopas and his friend felt the moment they recognized his hands?

What did you experience at the moment that you realized that Jesus died for you?

What does it usually take for you remember that Jesus is in room with you?

Our own “road to Emmaus” is a place of discovery and learning the lessons of God—especially is delivery of your redemption.

Do you recognize Jesus on the road with you or do you just assume that He isn’t watching what is happening to you?

The only thing in HEAVEN that is made by MAN is the SCARS in the hands of Jesus.

PRAYER TIME

- As you honor God with your prayers, thank Him for His presence as you journey through your life. Be sure to acknowledge His presence during your difficult times and your disappointments.
- Thank Jesus for following through with God’s redemptive plan for our salvation.
- Ask God to make you always aware of the lessons He is wanting to teach you.
- Ask God to make you aware of those whom you need to share the Good News of salvation.