

Jesus' Resurrection Proves You Matter to God

Lesson One

There's a Place You Can Find Answers

Movie Script reference:100-510

[Identify several questions to pause for deeper discussion in small groupings with a few points to share with all]

On the Road to Emmaus – Read Luke 24:13-24

Over 2000 years ago two followers of Jesus walked along a road to their hometown of Emmaus discussing the recent events. “I can't believe it happened. It doesn't make sense.”

1. List some of the events of those last several days that had these two disciples so downcast.
2. Examine reasons why the events surrounding the crucifixion must have been especially hard for the followers of Jesus to handle.
3. What shattering events in your lifetime became the hot topic of conversations and created similar emotional reactions?
4. Sort out some of the questions that arise when these shattering events hit us personally.
5. Analyze the ways Jesus showed the disciples that they matter to him while walking on the road to Emmaus.

Read the Account:

Crucifixion –

- Matthew 27:11-66
- Luke 22:47-23:56

What most impacts you in these accounts?

Difficult and confusing times can easily make us disheartened and dispirited like the Emmaus disciples. Sometimes in life it feels as though things have gone wrong and we begin to lose hope.

On the Road to Emmaus - Read Luke 24:25-27

6. Read 24:25-26 out loud with the accent and tone of voice you think Jesus might have said these words. Explain why you chose that approach.

7. Identify the phrase that would eventually be key to their understanding of the situation. Why?

8. Usually when Jesus taught (e.g. Mark 1:22), people were amazed at his teaching. Determine why Jesus directed these two individuals to the Scriptures (Moses and the Prophets) instead of just giving them the answers.

Study Further

The source and authority of Scriptures

- 2 Peter 1:15-21
- 2 Timothy 3:13-16

What do these tell you about the Bible?

There is so much we can't see or understand. God does know our struggles. We do matter to God. That is why he enlightens us so we don't have to be in the dark. He provides answers for us to help us sort through things we could never discover on our own. He made sure it was written down for us. *"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."* (Romans 15:4)

9. Explain why the Apostle Paul often refers to the very events that initially confused the Emmaus disciples and uses them to provide hope for those who are grieving.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 *Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.*

10. Discuss particular promises of God's Word you cling to when you are hurting.

11. Formulate a plan to increase your time or attention in walking with Jesus daily and listening to God's words of insight, encouragement, and hope for you.

Hope

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you... For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. (1 Peter 1:3-4, 23)

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Lesson Two

There's a Promise for You

Road to Emmaus: *Luke 24:18-27*
Movie Script reference:510-800

[Identify several questions to pause for deeper discussion in small groupings with a few points to share with all]

The original created world was completely perfect with none of the evil, sadness, pain, or death we experience today. It displayed the glory and love of God. It was an environment in which the peace and joy of the relationship between individuals and their Creator was fully realized without interruption.

1. Illustrate how the details of God's created world and the wonders of nature demonstrate that we matter to God.

Satan works behind the scenes (Ephesians 6:12) to unravel harmony and peace and entices hearts to turn from God. The devil deceives people to think that there is something better than what God offers. Adam and Eve's disobedience against God's loving leadership filled this world with turmoil.

2. Compare the emotions Adam and Eve must have felt when they sinned with similar feelings we experience today.

3. Evaluate the different ideas or attempts throughout history to get rid of evil and unrest and develop a paradise on earth.

4. Determine lessons the Flood teaches about God's perspective of the outbreak of evil and violence in the world.
 - a. Luke 17:26-30

- b. 2 Peter 3:1-13

**Read the Accounts
ADAM & NOAH**

Creation –

- Genesis 2

Origin and Impact of Sin and Evil

- Genesis 3

God Protects Noah

- Genesis 8

What most impacts you in these accounts?

Study further:

The impact of disobedience

- Romans 1:18-24
- Romans 5:12-19

What do these tell you about the sin?

There is rebellion against God that lies deep in every heart. Even the most righteous man is capable of evil. Yet God didn't turn his back on Adam and Eve. Neither did he completely abandon mankind at the Flood even though "every inclination of man's heart is evil from childhood" (Genesis 6:5; 8:21b).

5. Read **2 Peter 2:4-10a** and **1 Peter 3:18-22** and indicate how God shows that Noah AND YOU matter to God.

God's Covenant Promise

Her seed...will crush his head:

- Genesis 3:15

I will set my rainbow in the clouds

- Genesis 9:9-16

6. Underline those phrases in the passage below that reveal our natural condition and comment on how it helps us understand God's mercy and grace.

Ephesians 2:1-5 *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, ² in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. ³ All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. ⁴ But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, ⁵ made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.*

7. God determined to restore the relationships of paradise. Compare the difference between Adam and Jesus and their impact on humanity.

1 Corinthians 15:19-23 *If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. ²³ But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.*

Romans 5:15 *But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!*

8. Indicate what brings you peace in the passages below and show you matter to the risen Jesus.
- a. Acts 10:34-43

b. Romans 8:31-39

9. Write a two sentence response to others that captures how Jesus brings peace into your daily life. *(Use it in your daily conversations)*

Peace

Romans 5:1-2 *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.*

Jesus' Resurrection Proves You Matter to God

Lesson Three

There's a Plan Designed for You

Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:18-27

Movie Script reference:800-900

[Identify several questions to pause for deeper discussion in small groupings with a few points to share with all]

As the two disciples walked to Emmaus they were full of doubts and misgivings. We hit those moments too, don't we? We hardly understand the past and present much less know what the future may bring.

1. Describe different circumstances of life that fill people with doubts or uncertainty.

2. Recall the different circumstances in Abraham's life that would have filled him with misgivings and uncertainties.

Abraham was living in a special covenant relationship with God. God made an unconditional promise to him. Abraham, who was childless, would be the father of a great nation and have descendants as numerous as the stars. Through him *all nations of the earth would be blessed* (Genesis 12:3; 15:5-6).

3. Determine what God meant when he promised that all people would be blessed through a descendant (seed) of Abraham

Galatians 3:16 *The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.*

4. Explain what it says about Abraham when Jesus said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." (John 8:56)

5. Provide as many reasons as you can why Abraham would have to completely trust God on this promise actually happening.

6. When have you had to just live on faith that God would take care of things as promised?

Read the Accounts ABRAHAM

Abraham's Call

- Genesis 12:1-9

God's Covenant

- Genesis 15:1-6

The Covenant confirmed

- Genesis 17:1-8

The Incredible Birth

- Genesis 21:1-7

What most impacts you in these accounts?

God's Covenant Promise

All nations will be blessed through you

- Genesis 12:3

Your descendants will be as numerous as the stars and the sand

- Genesis 22:17-18

We become impatient with seemingly impossible situations. Our tendency is either to give up or to try to fix it ourselves. Some of God's blessings cannot be gained by human effort but only as a miracle of his grace. The famous church father Augustine once made the statement: "Lord, you have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in you."

7. Read the passages below and discuss what is key to your relationship with God and why.

Romans 4:2-3, 18-25 *If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. What does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."...¹⁸ Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "So shall your offspring be."¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead—since he was about a hundred years old—and that Sarah's womb was also dead.²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.²² This is why "it was credited to him as righteousness."²³ The words "it was credited to him" were written not for him alone,²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness—for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.*

Galatians 3:7-9 *Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.*

The writer to the Hebrews in chapter 11 defines faith and provides examples of people who lived by faith. You do matter to God. Faith is hanging on to a promise with the confidence that he will come through as promised. It is the certainty that God does have a plan and is carrying it out in a way that will demonstrate the riches of his grace and kindness toward us.

Jesus frequently told his disciples that he had to first *suffer and die before he would enter the realm of glory*. He even described some of the details (Matthew 17:22-23). God had a plan that was unfolding. Now on the road to Emmaus he helped two disciples see many of the promises and clues of that plan throughout the Old Testament.

Faith

- Hebrews 11
- Matthew 6:25-34
- John 14:1-14
- Ephesians 2:4-9
- Romans 10:1-15
- Matthew 17:20

8. Propose ways the following passages can also help you in your daily walk as you journey into the unknown.

Ephesians 11-13 *In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.*

Hebrews 12:1-3 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.² Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

Faith & Trust

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for." (Hebrews 11:1)

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Lesson Four

There's a Pardon Prepared for You

Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:25-35

Movie Script reference: 900-1340

We bristle at the thought of slavery, yet it still continues to happen around the world. Countless people today long for freedom. Yet the worst and least obvious slavery is an internal one.

1. How does Jesus define our slavery?

John 8:33-34 *They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.*

2. Name some sins that "enslave us."

Too often we convince ourselves that everything is good between us and God because, "basically I'm a good person." The problem is that we are not totally honest with ourselves and manufacture our own standard of what is good.

3. List several ways we minimize or rationalize our sin.

When the people of Moses' time groaned to God because of their slavery, he came to their aid because of his covenant with Abraham. Yet even after their escape they weren't totally free. Their frequent dissatisfaction with God and his ways showed there still was a slavery deep inside. They glossed over sin and its seriousness, but God doesn't. God sets the standard, and the standard is perfection. What you do does matter to God. Each of the 10 commandments that God gave at Mt. Sinai unveils the weakness and imperfections of the sinful human heart.

4. Summarize what Jesus explained as God's expectations behind the 10 commandments and compare them with the viewpoints and attitudes today.

Matthew 5:21-22, 27-28, 43-45 *You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment...But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell...²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, 'Do not commit adultery.'²⁸ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart...⁴³ "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven.*

Read the Accounts MOSES

The Slavery in Egypt

- Exodus 1:6-16

Moses' Call to Lead

- Exodus 3:1-10

The Passover

- Exodus 12

Crossing the Red Sea

- Exodus 14

Giving the Law - Mt Sinai

- Exodus 20:1-19

Sacrifices for sin

- Leviticus 4

What most impacts you in these accounts?

God's Covenant Promise

The Lord will raise up a prophet like Moses

- Deuteronomy 17:15-19

(see also John 6:14; John 5:45-47)

This is not about living a good outward show, improving behavior, or satisfying rituals to please God. Then there would be no hope. Not one of us could fully satisfy God's standards or undo our sin. We can't free ourselves by our own attempts at goodness.

5. Identify how Jesus' relationship to the law while on this earth affects our relationship to God.

Romans 5:19 *For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.*

Galatians 4:3b-7 *We were in slavery under the basic principles of the world. ⁴ But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, ⁵ to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. ⁶ Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.*

As Israel left Egypt, God made another covenant with them. If they sprinkled the blood of the Passover lamb on the doorposts of their home, they would avoid the impending death in their household. At Mt. Sinai he also gave details for their worship which included the shedding of blood.

6. Why do you suppose the blood sacrifice was such a prominent part of their worship?

7. Describe the imagery that must have come to mind in the following:

- John the Baptizer pointing out Jesus – *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* (John 1:29) (see also 1 Peter 1:9)
- Jesus at his last Passover taking the wine and saying – *"Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."* (Matthew 26:28)

Blood and Sacrifice

- Hebrews 9-10
- Acts 20:25
- Romans 3:25; 5:9
- Ephesians 1:7; 2:13
- 1 John 2:2; 4:10
- Revelation 1:5; 2:9

You do matter to God. People need rescue from slavery to sin, fear of death, and power of devil. Merely doing sacrifices and religious rituals do not satisfy God's holiness and justice. They were a shadow of the future sacrifice of Jesus which becomes the center of worship.

8. Read through the passages below and clarify how Christ's sacrifice brings freedom to your daily life.
- Isaiah 53:4-11
 - Romans 5:1, 6-10

Forgiveness & Freedom

Ephesians 1:7-8 *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.*

John 8:35-36 *Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son (Jesus) sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

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Lesson Five

There's a Power Released for You

Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:33-49

Movie Script reference: 1340-1540

There are often times we feel powerless. Part of us feels so vulnerable and fragile. Sometimes it is in the face of others who seem to have control over us, other times it may be circumstances or personal weakness.

1. List areas of your life where you wish you could exercise more power.
2. Tell what you know of the power of King David.

God promised King David *"Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever"* (2 Samuel 7:16). God also promised the Old Testament people, *"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land* (Jeremiah 23:5). When angel Gabriel came to Mary, he told her that her child, *"will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David"* (Luke 1:32). God was establishing a powerful, everlasting kingdom. Isaiah seemed to see the whole story as if it had happened already. He wrote: *"A child is born for us who will be called the mighty God, the Prince of Peace."*

3. Draw as many conclusions as possible about what the following passage reveals about Jesus.

Romans 1:1-4 *Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Being king wasn't all about wielding power and authority in the way the world thinks of it. Jesus' template was different.

4. Read Matthew 20:25-28 and describe how Jesus' concept of power is different from the world.

Read the Accounts DAVID

David anointed King

- 1 Samuel 16

David and Goliath

- 1 Samuel 17

The Ark to Jerusalem

- 2 Samuel 6

David's Grave Sin

- 2 Samuel 11-12

David's Song of Praise

- 2 Samuel 22
- (also Psalms)

What most impacts you in these accounts?

God's Covenant Promise

Your throne will endure forever

- 2 Samuel 7:16

I will raise up to David a King who will do what is right

- Jeremiah 23:5

The reason many missed the fact that Jesus was King was his apparent lack of prominence and prestige as would be expected from a worldly king. Although he showed his power in miracles, many quickly lost interest. Yet some would soon began to understand what the prophet Isaiah had been saying all along – the Messiah would not only be King, but also Suffering Servant (Isaiah 52:123-53:12). As he told the Emmaus disciples, he would “have to suffer these things and then enter his glory.”

5. Describe why the powerful King David needed the kind of suffering servant Jesus had become.
6. Examine Psalm 51 to understand what David believed about the power of forgiveness. What effect did he expect from being restored to God?

You matter to God. During his 33 years of life Jesus acted as your substitute by doing what you had not done. On Good Friday afternoon he acted as your substitute by undoing what you had done. Then he came alive again. If Jesus were still in the grave, what good news would there be? When Jesus sat down to eat with two disciples at their home in Emmaus, he spoke the prayer and took the bread to give to the two disciples. They immediately recognized him – thrilled he was alive. Then he disappeared.

7. Describe what you think it meant when they said, “*Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us.*”
8. After Jesus left them, what spontaneous action happened? Why?
9. How do you account for the difference in those two disciples before and after they met Christ that afternoon?

When Jesus later met with the disciples in the closed room, he clarified the call to action. He told them to stay in the city until they “*were clothed with power from on high.*” Just before he ascended he said similar words: “*But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*” (Acts 1:8).

10. Discuss the great power you also have and what God wants you to do with it now.

Luke 24:47 ...repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations.

2 Timothy 2:8-9 Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, descended from David. This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God’s word is not chained.

Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the **power** of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

**Boldness
& Purpose**

Philippians 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection...

2 Timothy 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Philippians 4:13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Luke 24

The Resurrection

¹ On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ ‘The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’” ⁸ Then they remembered his words.

⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened.

On the Road to Emmaus

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

¹⁷ He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

¹⁹ “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. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ 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. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”

²⁵ He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Christ^[b] have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. ²⁹ 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.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² 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?”

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

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Colossians 1:3-6

³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, ⁴ because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints— ⁵ the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶ that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth.