

ENCOUNTERS: IN THE BIBLE

I. CHECK-IN

- Check in. How is everyone doing? Did you have an opportunity to practice your active listening skills this week? How did that go?

II. SCRIPTURE: LUKE 24:13 - 35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 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 took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" **Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.**

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

V. PRAYER REQUESTS

Spend some time sharing prayer requests with each other. As the small group leader, we ask that you do two things:

1. write them down
2. ask someone to pray

IV. ACTIVITY

Practice Lectio Divina with Luke 24:27-35, which is written in **orange font** to the left. More instructions are on the following page.

III. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What stands out to you in the scripture?
- Where is God encountered in this story?
- What was awakened in their hearts when Jesus was teaching them the scriptures?
- What word or phrase stood out to you in the Lectio Divina exercise?
- What is God saying to you in this passage?
- Is Lectio Divina new to you? Have you practiced it before? Is it easy or hard to listen to scripture in this way?

See the next page for additional questions, figures, and scriptures.

LECTIO DIVINA

(HOLY READING)

Choose a text of scripture.

Calm your body and mind. Take a few deep breaths.

Pray: "Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten my heart and mind to listen to your word."

READ the text slowly and prayerfully. Listen for the word God is speaking to you. It is suggested to re-read the same passage multiple times. What word or phrase stands out to you?

MEDITATE: When a word or phrase strikes you, stop and rest with it. Repeat the word or phrase to yourself. What situation, memory, feelings, does it evoke? What is this word saying to you?

PRAY: What do you want to ask God or say to God in response to the word? Enter into a loving conversation with God.

CONTEMPLATE: Allowing the word you've heard to take root in your heart, rest in God's presence and receive God's transforming embrace.



What other examples can you think of to distinguish God's voice from the enemy's voice?

BONUS SCRIPTURE

If God is for us, who is against us? He didn't spare his own Son but gave him up for us all. Won't he also freely give us all things with him?

ROMANS 8:31B-32