

Now What? When Hope is Lost.  
Luke 24:13-35

**THE BIG IDEA:**

Life is a complex of joys and challenges and sometimes trauma that shakes us. In this study we will look at two disciples whose hope seemed dashed when Jesus died. How can we move from despair to hope, as they did, in our situations?

**OPENING:**

Read Luke 24:13-35. Why do you think they were kept from recognizing Jesus? What did they have right in their response to Jesus? What did they have partially right? What do you think of Jesus' response to them?

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

What were the disciples hoping for in verse 21? When have you hoped for something that didn't work out? How did you react? The disciples went from despair to joy. Did anything in the situation change? What caused the shift? How did their understanding of the situation affect their emotions?

Find a few passages in the Bible that speak of hope. What is the object of that hope? What is the difference between having hope for something and having hope in our Lord?

Is there any significance in the fact that their eyes were opened when Jesus broke the bread and gave it to them? If this was a type of Holy Communion reenactment, should we expect that we might get a new glimpse of Jesus when we take Holy Communion?

**PUTTING IT TO WORK:**

Can you think about a time when your world was shaken like theirs? Did the Lord feel distant or absent from you? Did you realize later that He was with you? Did your understanding of the situation change as the disciples on the road to Emmaus did? Sit quietly and with eyes closed, revisit that time, asking the Spirit of God to reveal where Jesus was in the situation. Thank Him for His presence and faithfulness to you.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**