

INTRO

In this session we are going to look at the appearance of Jesus on the road to Emmaus and consider these two principles:

1. Our vision of Jesus **can be blurred**
2. Our vision of Jesus **can be corrected**

BRING YOUR BIBLES

Read aloud **Luke 24:13–35**, encouraging everyone to follow along in their own Bibles. The more translations the better as each may highlight something different.

Now allow the whole group the opportunity to share what stood out anew to them and why.

QUESTIONS

1. *[If your church are running the 40 Days with Jesus sermons]* What particularly impacted you from Sunday's message?
2. *[If you are using the small group videos instead]* What particularly impacted you from this week's message?
3. What is the mood of the disciples at the beginning of this passage? How has their vision of Jesus become blurred?
 - *Note to leader: By despair (vv17–18), by disappointment (v21), by doubt (vv22–24).*
4. God is not distant in our despair, but comes to meet us right in the midst of it. Have you experienced particular times in your life when, looking back, you realise Jesus' presence was with you but you didn't recognise Him?
5. In verses 25–27 how does Jesus begin to 'correct the disciples' vision'? How often do we look to God's Word in our daily lives to help us correct our own vision?
6. Read verse 32. How is our experience of reading the Scriptures so often different? Why might this be?
7. In verse 29 we read that the disciples responded to the presence of Jesus by pleading with Him to stay. In contrast, read the extract from an

interview with Duncan Bannatyne (below) and discuss how his encounter with God impacts you.

In his book *Anyone Can Do It*, Bannatyne shares about a close encounter he had with God while in Romania – just after seeing the plight of the local people. He writes:

For me the tears came at about ten o'clock that night. I went outside and found a quiet place at the side of the house. I couldn't stop the tears, my face was wet, my nose began to run and I was a mess. I had no choice but to let the tears flow; and they just kept pouring out of me and wouldn't stop. After many minutes I began to get the feeling that I wasn't alone.

It was there and then that God said hello. I felt that I had been consumed by this presence, that something had completely shrouded and taken hold of me. It was unmistakable: I knew who had come and I also knew why. It wasn't a spiritual thing, it was a Christian thing, and I felt I was being told, 'you've arrived, join the faith, be a Christian, this is it'. It was profound, and I stood there, stunned, considering the offer and thinking about what it would mean. I knew I wanted to keep on building up my businesses and I wanted to keep making money, and I also knew I wanted to carry on doing all the things I wasn't proud of – I knew I was never going to be this totally Christian guy going to church on Sundays. So I said, 'No, I'm not ready.' And God said, 'OK,' and disappeared.

Although he admits he's not ready for the full-on 'Christian thing', Bannatyne says he believes there is a God. He is quoted by *The Mayfair Times* as stating, 'I know that, because I met Him and we'll all answer to Him one day – there's no doubt about it.'

8. Jesus continued to reveal Himself to the disciples by eating with them. Compare Luke 24:30–31 with Genesis 3:1–7. What are the differences between these two accounts? What had the disciples' eyes now been opened to? What is the significance of this on our relationship with God?

SHARE YOUR STORY

You can discuss the following questions together as one group or, if individuals prefer, you could split into groups of twos or threes.

9. **How have you come to know Jesus** better over recent weeks through our fresh consideration of the cross, and Jesus' amazing sacrifice. Share together your thoughts as to why Jesus is special to you.
10. **How do you approach the Bible?** Do you use it as a moral guide or for encouragement? How much is it about building the portrait and revealing the personality of our Lord Jesus Christ? Have you had times when reading it made your heart burn within (Luke 24:32)?
11. **How much do you want Jesus' presence to stay with you?** The disciples urged Him strongly to stay with them (Luke 24:29). Are you hungry for more of the Spirit of Jesus in your life? What would it mean for you to invite Him in afresh?

PRAY TOGETHER

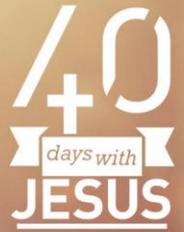
Take the time to invite the Holy Spirit, perhaps begin with prayers of worship and thanksgiving, then you may choose to follow these suggestions for specific prayer:

You could pray:

- for individuals [name them in your hearts if not aloud] in your neighbourhoods or networks who do not know Jesus. Pray that their eyes would be opened to see Him
- against the blinding that Satan causes
- for people to see God through the works of Christians and the Church
- for individuals in the group who need eye-opening guidance

WEEK 02 SMALL GROUP

AN EYE OPENING JOURNEY



- that every person in your group would see Jesus afresh today
- that when you read and study the Bible in the future, you will know a fresh sense of Jesus' presence opening up the Scriptures to you personally, as He did with those disciples on the road to Emmaus.