

Life Group Study – Week One - We Had Hoped...You Are Not Alone

Connect

What are you celebrating this week or season in your life?

What challenge are you facing in this season in your life?

Watch this week's video

Introduction

The question we are addressing is: "What are your expectations for God?" Before you say "I don't have any" consider that every relationship carries with it expectations. You may expect that if you pray, read your Bible, and remain faithful that God will bless you in some way. You might have the expectation that after earnestly seeking God's will in your life your life would be filled with purpose and meaning and problems would be minimal. What happens when your expectation for God doesn't meet your current reality? This is what was occurring in Luke 24. Cleopas and another disciple are leaving Jerusalem after the crucifixion of Jesus. It has been three days since Jesus was crucified and buried. The man they thought to be their mighty king was dead. They had the expectation of Jesus being the Messiah. He was supposed to establish a Jewish kingdom and throw off the Roman rule. Jesus did not live up to their expectations and they left Jerusalem hurt and without hope. Luke 24:17 reads: "they stood still, their faces downcast."

Read Luke 24:13-32

1. Jerusalem was a very chaotic city during and after the crucifixion of Jesus. Cleopas and the other disciple wanted to just get away for a while. What do you do when things in life become chaotic? What are healthy ways you cope and if you are willing to share, what are some unhealthy ways you try to find 'normal' in the middle of chaos?
2. The two disciples called Jesus: "a mighty prophet" and "Jesus of Nazareth." They don't refer to Him as the Messiah or King. How do these two descriptions of Jesus in verse 19 give insight into what these two disciples thought of Him?
3. Read Luke 24:21. These two had lost hope. Discuss as a group what it must have been like for them to lose hope. The redeemer of Israel was dead. How do you deal with disappointment in life? How do you process the pain of being let down or letting someone else down? What does 'healthy' look like?
4. In verses 22-24 you will see they had been told that the tomb of Jesus was empty and yet they still didn't believe He had risen. Read Hebrews 11:1. How would you describe your faith to someone who doesn't yet know Jesus?
5. Luke 24:25-27. Why do you think Jesus takes the time to re-explain the scriptures to these men instead of just revealing who He was?
6. What are some of the dangers of expecting God to act and respond in a certain way? What occurs when your faith is based on how you think God should respond instead of just God Himself?
7. Luke 24:32. The two travelers just experienced Godly heartburn. They finally realized that God was in control the whole time and they just needed to have faith. Discuss a situation in your life that, after looking back, you realized God was in control of the whole time, even if you didn't believe it while everything was occurring.

This Week: