

May 1/22 – Small Group Leader's Guide

Read Luke 24:13-35

1. How has the pandemic reshaped our habits of community, relationship, and church in the past two years?

There are a variety of ways, mainly the habituation towards privatized religion and consumer-based decisions. Before the pandemic, for regular church goers, schedules revolved around Sunday service and gathering. Now, Sunday service online can be fitted into our schedules. This affected our habits and decisions around relationship-building, socials, gatherings, and friendships.

2. In what ways do we as Christians embody or manifest God's living Word in our homes, neighbourhood, and church community?

Through personal and in-person relationships when we come alongside our family members, our neighbours, and co-workers with our words, attitudes, emotions, encouragement, and the gift of embodied presence can we manifest God's living and active Word to them -- speaking truth in love, our speech seasoned with salt and grace, our affirmation and encouragement, our challenge and confrontation. Specifically, we can meet together for small groups, Bible studies, prayer meetings, and coffee or wine visits.

3. In what ways do we as Christians embody or manifest the sacrament of holy communion in our homes, neighbourhoods, and church community?

When we gather for Holy Eucharist, we as a community celebrate in faith and with thanksgiving the memorial of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. The consumption of consecrated bread and wine is in itself an act of real and spiritual nourishment for our bodies and souls. This act of Eucharist then extends out to our homes as we become people who are hospitable, hosting others over meals, generous with our sharing of resources, and spending time with others at our tables.

4. How can we as Christians "walk alongside" others on the road of faith and doubt, alongside people's spiritual journeys?

We can take risks in our relationships, friendships, and in our taking interest in other people. We invite others into our lives by entrusting our personal lives into their hands. And we allow others to do the same as we open up "safe spaces" for others to feel welcomed, loved, heard, understood, and cared for. We let people ask questions as we listen and pray. We will be quicker to hear than to speak. We engage deeply and not just superficially when it's convenient to our timetable and schedule. We leave space for the messiness of relationships.