

Apr 21 – Leader’s Guide - Luke 24:36-53 - “Easter: Evening”

1. Read the passage. Imagine yourself in the disciples’ position, just hearing about your friend coming back from the dead. How would you react/feel?

Try to help the group imagine themselves in the room, with the mix of emotions. If you have time, feel free to practice a bit of ‘dwelling’ in the room with your group – just holding the space and prayerfully imagining being present as Jesus appears in the room.

2. Have you ever had the experience of hearing news that is so good that you’re afraid to believe it? If you feel comfortable, share your experience with the group.

If you have an experience to share, great! If no one has something to share for this, perhaps imagine some scenarios where people might feel like the disciples felt.

3. When Jesus ascended to the Father, the reaction of the disciples was not fear or sorrow but joy and worship. Why do you think the disciples reacted the way they did to Jesus’ ascension?

The disciples understood that Jesus wasn’t ‘dying again’ or leaving them as he had in the past, but was going to be present with them in a new, different way.

4. How have you understood the ascension? What are some things that we as believers have gained with Christ’s ascension?

Jesus has ascended bodily, in human form, to the Father. His ministry there includes:

- *Being present to all believers, everywhere, rather than limited to one place and time*
- *Interceding for all believers everywhere in whatever we are going through, including holding up his sacrifice on our behalf constantly*
- *Pouring out his Holy Spirit upon his church, giving wisdom and strength*