



CLAY 2021

August 20-22, 2021

Pre-Gathering Bible Study

Leaders' Road Map

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LEADERS' ROAD MAP



Hi Leaders,

Many of you have asked for help and support in leading Bible Studies. We hear you and this brief document is to help support YOU as you offer yourself in ministry with the youth in your area! Below you will find thoughts and ideas from various sources (along with the source info) to help prepare your mind and heart for the discussion you are about to lead! The study itself can be completed in a single sitting, or can be broken into 3 sections. Feel free to adapt as needed for your context!

Please remember to follow all local Public Health guidelines. If it is safe for you to do so, in accordance with your local Public Health guidelines, you are encouraged to gather and participate in CLAY together as a group. If it is not safe to gather in person, you will still be able to fully participate from any place with a reliable internet connection.

As you make your journey with your youth, we hold all of you in prayer!

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Background Info on the Text

Luke is writing to a community of mainly Gentiles, although there would be some Jewish hearers of his. For Luke, Jesus is Lord because of who he includes. For Luke, Jesus represents God doing a new thing.

- Notice the movement within the text- walking slowly and hopelessly from Jerusalem to Emmaus - then hastily back.
- Information was concealed because they were not able to or ready to receive it. Understanding comes later.
- Faith is not coerced or overwhelmed by revelations to the unprepared.
- Understanding is hindered by an inability to believe that the event will really occur or that it will be so important.
- The return serves 3 functions:
 1. The disciples MUST share the good news. Understanding their own suffering and their own redemption - they need to help others who are suffering in the same way, enlighten those living in the same hopelessness.
 2. Allows for a comparison of experience making a common story.
 3. Jerusalem is centre, all reports go there.¹
- Walking towards sunset - blinded by the sun rising or setting.
- Jesus would have continued - not forcing himself into the lives of the disciples.
- Received with great joy and quickly went to share the news/story.²
- For these 2 - the crucifixion was the end of a prophet they had hoped was the Messiah.

1 Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching - Luke, Fred B Craddock, Westminster John Knox Press 2009
2 The Daily Study Bible, The Gospel of Luke, William Barclay, Welch Publishing Company Inc., Burlington, ON, Canada, 1975

- False interpretation of Jesus’s death came from false messianic expectations.
- “That very day” - symbolism of a new beginning.³
- Emmaus - Greek/Latin for “warm spring bath.”
- Exact location not known for sure.
- Travel - possibly return from Passover celebration.
- Disciples not famous, simple, 1 is anonymous.
- Recognition.
- “Jesus maybe right in front of you, walking with you and sitting down with you at every meal - and your eyes could be restrained from seeing him. We therefore should pray that God would open our eyes...”⁴

SHARING THE ENCOUNTER IDEAS

Leaders,

We understand that you are all creative and know your youth, what is on their minds, and your local context better than anyone! We also understand that leaders often enjoy hearing what other leaders have dreamt up to engage their youth! With that in mind, we offer you a few tried and successful ideas of ways to ‘Share the Encounter’. Feel free to use or adapt these ideas to fit your group, or dream up your own plan and please share with others!

1. Plan and prepare a meal. Who might you invite? How can you be Christ to someone/some group of people over a meal?
2. Go for a walk as a group. Notice those you pass along your journey. Watch for Christ in those around you!
3. Prepare a small give away (knit/crochet prayer squares, make cards, etc). Go to a location and connect with those who pass by. Engage in conversation, asking them how you can pray for them. Offer them the item you prepared as a symbol of your prayer. Make sure you follow up and actually PRAY!
4. Create positivity posters with rip tabs that include positive messages or a prayer and post around your community. (Make sure you are abiding by the local laws and bylaws!)
5. Enter into conversations using various scenarios (real or created) using the “Sandals” method.

In Their “SANDALS”

- S** - stop to think about what is triggering your response
- A** - ask why you’re responding the way you are
- N** – no judgement – don’t make a “book by its cover” judgement
- D** - decide other ways you could respond
- A** - apply your new idea in how you respond to the trigger
- L** - love like Jesus did – everyone in all times
- S** - share your story with others; your group, family, church, school

We know you are brilliant! What creative ways can you dream up to be Christ for those around you, see Christ in those around you, share Christ with those around you?

³ The New Century Bible Commentary, The Gospel of Luke, E. Earle Ellis, Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, 1981
⁴ www.enduringword.com/biblecommentary/luke-24/

LUKE COMPARISON TO HISTORIC AND PROPHETIC TEXTS

New Testament	Old Testament	Connections for Leaders
<p>Luke 1.32-33. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'</p>	<p>2 Samuel 7.12-17. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be a father to him, and he shall be a son to me. When he commits iniquity, I will punish him with a rod such as mortals use, with blows inflicted by human beings. But I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever. In accordance with all these words and with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.</p>	<p>Jesus will fulfill the expectation that David's heir will reign eternally</p>
<p>Luke 2.25 - 32 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,</p>	<p>Isaiah 42.6. I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, Isaiah 49.6. 'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.' Isaiah 52.10. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.</p>	<p>Anna and Simeon - the last 2 prophets in the Old Testament declare upon seeing Jesus that he is the Messiah, the fulfillment of God's promise.</p>
<p>Luke 3. 21-22. Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'</p>	<p>Isaiah 42.1. Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.</p>	<p>This same voice appears at the transfiguration in Luke 9.35</p>
<p>Luke 3. 23-38. Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his work. He was the son (as was thought) of Joseph son of Heli, son of Matthat, son of Levi, son of Melchi, son of Jannai, son of Joseph, son of Mattathias, son of Amos, son of Nahum, son of Esli, son of Naggai, son of Maath, son of Mattathias, son of Semein, son of Josech, son of Joda, son of Joanan, son of Rhesa, son of Zerubbabel, son of Shealtiel, son of Neri, son of Melchi, son of Addi, son of Cosam, son of Elmadam, son of Er, son of Joshua, son of Eliezer, son of Jorim, son of Matthat, son of Levi, son of Simeon, son of Judah, son of Joseph, son of Jonam, son of Eliakim, son of Melea, son of Menna, son of Mattatha, son of Nathan, son of David, son of Jesse, son of Obed, son of Boaz, son of Sala, son of Nahshon, son of Amminadab, son of Admin, son of Arni, son of Hezron, son of Perez, son of Judah, son of Jacob, son of Isaac, son of Abraham, son of Terah, son of Nahor, son of Serug, son of Reu, son of Peleg, son of Eber, son of Shelah, son of Cainan, son of Arphaxad, son of Shem, son of Noah, son of Lamech, son of Methuselah, son of Enoch, son of Jared, son of Mahalaleel, son of Cainan, son of Enos, son of Seth, son of Adam, son of God.</p>	<p>Isaiah 11.1-11. A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. On that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that is left of his people, from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Ethiopia, from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the coastlands of the sea.</p>	<p>A comparison of Jesus genealogy</p>

New Testament	Old Testament	Connections for Leaders
<p>Luke 4.3-12. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."' "</p> <p>Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."' "</p> <p>Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."' ' Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."' "</p>	<p>Deuteronomy 8.3. He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.</p> <p>Deuteronomy 6.13-16. The Lord your God you shall fear; him you shall serve, and by his name alone you shall swear. Do not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who are all around you, because the Lord your God, who is present with you, is a jealous God. The anger of the Lord your God would be kindled against you and he would destroy you from the face of the earth. Do not put the Lord your God to the test, as you tested him at Massah.</p>	<p>The 40 days Jesus spends in the wilderness recalls Israel's forty years of wandering in the wilderness after the Exodus.</p>
<p>Luke 4.16-20. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:</p> <p>'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'</p> <p>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.</p>	<p>Isaiah 61.1-2. The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;</p>	<p>Jesus proclaims!</p>
<p>Luke 7.22. And he answered them, 'Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have good news brought to them.</p>	<p>Isaiah 29.18. On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a scroll, and out of their gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind shall see.</p> <p>Isaiah 42.18. Listen, you that are deaf; and you that are blind, look up and see!</p>	<p>Note the similarities to the prophets words and Jesus' words.</p>
<p>Luke 8.9-10. Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that "looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand."</p>	<p>Isaiah 6.9-10. And he said, 'Go and say to this people: "Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand." Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed.'</p>	<p>Jesus paraphrases Isaiah here.</p>

New Testament	Old Testament	Connections for Leaders
<p>Luke 22.35-38. He said to them, 'When I sent you out without a purse, bag, or sandals, did you lack anything?' They said, 'No, not a thing.' He said to them, 'But now, the one who has a purse must take it, and likewise a bag. And the one who has no sword must sell his cloak and buy one. For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, "And he was counted among the lawless"; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled.' They said, 'Lord, look, here are two swords.' He replied, 'It is enough.'</p>	<p>Isaiah 53.12. Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.</p>	<p>Luke is foreshadowing the crucifixion between criminals.</p>

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The Word: The Road to Emmaus - Luke 24.13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Prayer

Almighty God, we are all on a journey, collectively and individually. No matter where our journeys take us, open our eyes to your presence every moment of our travels. Help us to see you clearly, to hear your words clearly, and to recognize you in those we meet along the way. Amen.

Part One – Things to Think Through

In 1991, Tom Cochrane released a song that was covered by Rascal Flatts in 2000, that began with the lyrics, "Life's like a road that you travel on...." Perhaps this is a good place to start looking into the lives of the 2 disciples walking the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus following the crucifixion of their dear friend Jesus. Their lives had been a roller coaster over the last three years, leaving their families, their friends and their known experiences to follow Jesus. They spent time watching as he performed miracles, learning the lessons he taught, building in hope and expectation that Jesus was the One who was the anticipated Messiah. That Jesus was the One who had come to overthrow the Roman government and reclaim Israel for God's people. All of that hope was dashed and now they found themselves heartbroken, filled with deep sadness as they left the site of the gruesome death of their dear friend and master, seemingly forgetting all of the things that they had learned along the way, until Jesus revealed himself to them in the breaking of bread.

As the disciples walked along this road, it is interesting to note a few things:

First: these are not necessarily the “famous” disciples, the ones we hear about regularly. This is the only place in Luke’s gospel where Cleopas is mentioned and the other isn’t even named. We might consider them “average.” Can you identify with being one of the “average” in a group?

Second: the road these disciples are travelling on leaves some room for speculation. Scholars aren’t really sure where Emmaus is today. We know that it was located “sixty stadia” from Jerusalem, with a ‘stade’ being approximately 180m each. How far a walk is that 10.8km from your current location? How long would it take you to walk that far? What might you do during that walk, with a good friend?

Third: as the disciples made this journey, they met at least one person along the way, and recounted the story of their friend, and their hopes for the future. What stories of Jesus’ life and your relationship with him would you recount with a stranger who joined you on your journey?

Fourth: it was hard for the pair to accept that the stories they had heard of the empty tomb meant that Jesus’ promise of resurrection was for real since they hadn’t encountered Jesus themselves. It wasn’t until he took bread, blessed and broke it, that they recognized their travel companion as Jesus. As followers of Jesus, we are called to see Christ in the strangers we meet on our journeys. How might we do that on our journey, in our lives? How might we do that as we gather online this summer at CLAY?

Part Two – Digging Deeper

1. Why were the disciples travelling on this day? What was their “plan”? What was their mood? Discuss the following 2 possibilities: a) they were filled with despair and returning to their home to mourn. b) they were returning to their home to wait for Jesus’ return. How might those scenarios be similar? How might they be different?
2. When the disciples met the stranger on the road, and were recounting their story, they said, “we had hoped...” It seems that they were surprised by what had happened and disappointed in the result. Have you ever felt similarly when you have found yourself where you never expected to be? For the author of Luke, showing that God was doing a new thing in the lives of God’s people, often looks like something other than what was expected. How do you respond when Jesus does not appear in the way you were hoping or expecting?
3. Jesus says to the disciples, “How foolish are you and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!” and recounts his history through the words of the prophets interpreting the stories about himself. Look up the following passages from the Old and New Testaments and compare:
 - a) Luke 1.32-33 vs. 2 Samuel 7.12-17
 - b) Luke 2.25 - 32 vs. Isaiah 42.6, 49.6, 52.10
 - c) Luke 3. 21-22 vs. Isaiah 42.1
 - d) Luke 3. 23-38 vs. Isaiah 11.1-11
 - e) Luke 4.3-12 vs. Deuteronomy 8.3, 6.13 - 16
 - f) Luke 4.16-20 vs. Isaiah 61.1-2
 - g) Luke 7.22 vs. Isaiah 29.18, 42.18
 - h) Luke 8.9-10 vs. Isaiah 6.9-10
 - i) Luke 22.35-38 vs. Isaiah 53.12

4. Even after hearing the prophecies recounted, the disciples still didn't recognize Jesus. The stranger doesn't impose, or invite himself to stay, rather he walks on. The disciples invite him to stay and eat with them, inviting him into deeper relationship. How might the actions of the disciples inform how we might react to those we meet along our journey? Are there people in our lives we can invite into deeper relationship?
5. It seems that as soon as the disciples figure out who the stranger is, that it is the Risen Christ, he disappears. Have you ever realized the presence of God, in the moment, or as hindsight? How did you react? Share that story.
6. The reaction of the disciples was to run and tell the good news. How might you share the good news of Christ in your life with others?

Part Three – Sharing the Encounter

As a group, take some time to brainstorm how you might purposefully be Christ for those around you, see Christ in those around you, and how you might share Christ with those around you.

You might want to consider one or more of the options found in the Leaders Road Map, or brainstorm your own!