



# Connect: LIFEgroup discussion guide

a Christian community of fresh hope

**"You are witnesses..."**

**Sun 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 2022**

**WELCOME:** *The statements of Jesus in John's Gospel when Jesus says "You are..." is our opportunity as followers of Jesus to personalise and understand who "I am" and "we are" as disciples of Jesus.*

- What do you recall about who Jesus says "You are" in the past few weeks?
- What have you learned about being a follower of Jesus in the past few weeks from the following topics:
- **"You are salt & light"** Matt 5
- **"You are my disciples"** John 8
- **"You are in me"** John 14
- **"You are my friends"** John 15
- Which message has been most significant to you personally?

## **DISCUSSING THE MESSAGE: (Luke 24:35-49)**

The message is about Jesus describing his followers as being "witnesses."

- In general terms how would you describe what a witness is and what a witness does?
- Have you ever been called as a witness or been in a jury – what did that reveal to you about what it means to be a witness? (Don't feel compelled if the experience was not positive.)

In this situation, the risen Jesus has appeared to one of his followers Cleopas (*Luke 24:18*) and his friend – possibly his wife Mary based on her presence at the foot of the Cross in *John 19:25* – on the road to Emmaus. They have recognised Jesus and return to Jerusalem immediately to tell the other disciples. As they are relating their experience Jesus appears among them all, he is about to ascend to heaven, and this is a significant encounter with his followers.

## **READ: Luke 24:35**

- What are your first reflections on this verse?
- What is the significance of them recognising Jesus when he broke bread with them?

## **READ: Luke 24:36-40**

- How do you think people in the room would have felt in that moment?
- What does this passage reveal about the nature of Jesus' resurrected body?
- Have you ever had a supernatural encounter in your life that caused you to react?

## **READ: Luke 24:41-42**

- What do you imagine what Jesus did meant to his friends?
- What does it suggest for the future for those who are following Jesus?

**READ: Luke 24:43-44**

- What are your first reflections on these verses?
- What do you think it means that everything written about Jesus in the Old Testament must be fulfilled?
- In what ways does Jesus' fulfillment impact Christians today? (Consider the prior discussion around being "in Christ" from John 14)
- In what ways do you think our minds have been opened to the Scriptures? (Check out *John 14:26; Luke 12:12; 1 John 2:27*)

**READ: Luke 24:46 - 47**

- What are the key elements that are presented in these two verses?
- In what ways do these elements represent the message of the gospel?

**READ: Luke 24:48**

- What is it that Jesus is proclaiming his followers are witnesses of?
- In what ways are we witnesses who represent the message of the gospel?

**READ: Luke 24:49**

- Why does Jesus say the coming of the Holy Spirit is a promise from the Father? (Check out *Joel 2:28; Isa 32:15-16; Ezek 36:26-27*)
- In what ways does the Holy Spirit empower us to be witnesses of the gospel? (Check out *John 14:16-17; John 15:26-27; John 16:15; Acts 1:8*)

**Pray together:**

One of the key reasons for the Holy Spirit being here is to empower followers of Jesus to be witness of the Good News:

- Jesus died and was buried
- Jesus rose again conquering sin and death for all humanity
- Jesus is alive and forgiveness of sin and redemption is available in Christ

Take time as a LIFEgroup to pray for one another and pray for our church family to be empowered by the Holy Spirit and to be effective witnesses of the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Pray that we can learn to love one another, to walk in love together and to demonstrate the love of Jesus in our world. Pray we can identify God's fruit in our lives, identify it in one another and encourage each other. Pray we would allow Jesus to be at work through us and we would be identified as true witnesses in our church family and in our wider community. Pray that we would be a people who declare of Jesus that He is our God.