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Bible Study | Faith in Action

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Prepare

- Bible
- Journal
- Pen/pencil

Get Started

Are you ready to share the gospel at any time with anyone who asks? In the passage we are about to study, we see that Jesus was. He spoke to His friends in their despair and lack of understanding of what He was doing and exposed the truth in a way they would understand. Jesus met these men where they were (physically and spiritually) to show them what God was up to in that moment.

Study and Learn

This passage occurs right after the death of Jesus and the morning of Resurrection Sunday. The two men in these verses were disciples, followers of Jesus, whose idea of what the Messiah would be and look like was destroyed upon His death. In this passage, Jesus revealed to them how God was actually working—by correctly interpreting prophecy—even though the Jesus they had known defied their expectations of the Messiah. Jesus did not just correct them—He showed how the Old Testament revealed God’s plan fulfilled in Himself.

• Read Luke 24:13–35

As Jesus walked with the men, He kept them from recognizing Him and asked them what they were discussing. They shared the events of recent days and their disappointment in their belief that because Jesus had died, He must not be the Savior they were waiting for. When Jesus began to explain their wrongful thinking, He did not simply recount His time on earth or what He had taught them in person. He went back to Scripture passages the men would have studied and been familiar with and showed how His actions fulfilled Scripture rather than contradicting it.

Consider your study of the Old Testament. Do you simply read the well-known stories as notable examples of how God worked in that time and place? Or do you study how God’s plan of redemption is woven into every book of the Old Testament?

Jesus began with Moses and the Prophets. What do you think Jesus would have included? How would you tell the story of that portion of Scripture?

Most Bible teachers break Scripture into four major movements: creation, fall, redemption, and restoration. Genesis 1–2 covers creation as God created the world and everything in it and declared it good. Man and animals lived in perfect harmony together, there was no sin, and, best of all, humans had a perfect relationship with God—walking with Him daily in the cool of the day. Genesis 3 describes the Fall, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They immediately started lying and trying to cover themselves in God’s presence.

In Genesis 4–5, the downward spiral continues with their children and the first murder. We see that humanity grew in wickedness and evil in their hearts until the account of the flood in chapter 6.

But God had a plan for redemption. This began in Genesis 3:15 with a promise of a child who would mend the relationship that was broken between God and humans and crush the head of the enemy who deceived them. This plan of redemption is woven throughout the rest of the Old Testament with covenants and promises made to the Hebrew people, whom God chose to call out to show the world how all would be redeemed. The movement of redemption climaxes with the birth, life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus, the Promised One who crushed the head of the deceiver.

Then comes restoration. As the gospel spreads and people put their faith and trust in Jesus, their personal relationship with God is restored. And as these believers live in the world, are faithful to follow Jesus, and share their faith, the world begins to look more and more like God intended it to. Eventually, Jesus will come back to restore all creation and rule over the world, and it will look like it was always meant to look. Humanity will once again physically walk with God.

Apply

Consider your readiness to share the gospel. Are you ready with an answer to anyone who asks why you have the hope you do? If you are studying today with a group, break into pairs and take turns now sharing the gospel story with one another. If you are studying on your own, consider a friend you could partner with to practice sharing the gospel. This friend could also serve as a prayer partner as you both seek to grow in sharing the gospel.

Follow Up

Who are the lost in your life? Do you regularly engage with nonbelievers in your workplace? In your neighborhood? With the parents of your children's friends? If you don't find yourself regularly among the lost, what can you do to change that? Consider joining a gym or a hobby club or be intentional about meeting others at the library or park. Do you regularly interact with the same convenience store worker, mail carrier, or dog groomer? Engage these people in conversation, ask whether they are a member of a local church, and be prepared to answer any questions that follow.

Commit to Memory

Verse: **Luke 24:27**

Challenge: **Luke 24:30–32**

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Faith in Action | Simple Steps Toward Evangelism

By Stephanie Newton

Everywhere we go, we encounter women created by our loving Father who have no relationship with Him. For those of us who have enjoyed a relationship with Him for a long time, it is unthinkable that many people around us have not met the Lord. We move about our days secure in the knowledge that “Jesus is mine.” While we have a desire for all people to follow Him, we may feel we don’t know the lost. We may wonder where to find them. Because we seemingly don’t encounter the lost, evangelism may feel like someone else’s calling. But it’s not for someone else—we’ve all been called. You and I have been given a mandate to “go and make disciples” (Matt. 28:19). If you’re ready to embrace the call, here are some simple steps to help you get started.

1. Get some training.

While no special training is required to share the good news, training can help us feel much more comfortable. I love the 3 Circles method. It gives three entry points into sharing. When someone shares about a trouble or sadness, we can easily start a conversation about our brokenness and God’s design. Whatever training you get, practice it enough to be comfortable when you need to use it.

2. Begin to pray for spiritual conversations.

In your prayertime, ask the Lord to help you meet people who are lost. Ask Him to give you encounters that lead to sharing the gospel. Ask Him to give you eyes to see the lost and the broken.

3. Don’t worry!

For many of us, nervousness keeps us from engaging in spiritual conversations. We worry we won’t know who to

talk to or when to share the gospel. Our Father knows the people He is going to place in our paths. He is fully able to guide us as we share in spiritual conversations. Pray about your concerns and make yourself available to join Him in His work.

4. Leave a margin.

Try to leave a margin of time so that when the opportunity presents itself, you can respond. If we are always rushing or running late, then we don’t have time to respond. Plan a few extra minutes into your schedule and see how the Lord redeems the time.

5. Be friendly and establish a genuine connection.

Use every opportunity to exercise hospitality. Greet those you meet with a smile. Inquire about how people are, especially those you see on a daily basis. If someone shares a need or concern with you, follow up with him or her. Next time you see that person, ask how that concern is going and let the person know you prayed for him or her. Being friendly helps those who don’t know us feel like they are able to share parts of their lives with us. Kindness and friendliness go a long way!

These are simple first steps to sharing Jesus and engaging the lost around us. As we prepare and pray for opportunities, we can be confident the Lord will send us to those who need to know Him. We don’t have to be anxious because we can rest in knowing He will be with us and will give us words to say. Let’s embrace our Father’s call as an invitation to Great Commission living.

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