

May: Luke 24 - *God is available to us here and now* with Pastor Lose

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Opening Prayer

Dear God, bless each one who comes to this study. Open our ears, hearts, and minds so that we may experience your presence in our lives more deeply as we learn about your commitment to stay with us through all things. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Focus Overview

It's hard to believe that we've reached the end of this year's Living the Message journey. In this last session, we'll discover that this God we're learning about isn't just sitting in heaven but is available to us anytime! The story we're delving into – often called “The Road to Emmaus” – comes from the Gospel of Luke. It's easy to forget that Luke, as well as the other Evangelists, was writing to Christians who had never seen or met Jesus. In other words, Luke is writing to Christians just like us, those who depend upon the witness of others. In this story that focuses on two disciples who meet Jesus on their journey Easter evening from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus, Luke promises his community that they have not missed out. Jesus still appears to his followers. Jesus still opens our hearts and minds to understand his mission and ministry. Jesus still inspires us to go out and share the good news of God's love with others. And Jesus does all of this in a way that is as simple as it is surprising. ~ Pastor Lose

Questions:

1. How has learning about these eight essential stories helped shape your life of faith this year?
2. The Road to Emmaus is between two resurrection stories in Luke. ([Luke 24:1-11](#) and [Luke 24:36-53](#)). Why do you think Luke makes room for this unique story?
3. The Road to Emmaus is a story in four parts:

Part One: [Luke 24:13-24](#) *Meeting them where they are*

- a. Why do you think they didn't recognize Jesus? What might keep *our* eyes from seeing Jesus in our daily lives?
- b. Have you ever realized *afterward* that God was present in a moment you didn't recognize at the time? Where in your life might Jesus be walking alongside you unnoticed?

Part Two: [Luke 24:25-27](#) *Opening up the Scriptures*

- c. Jesus interpreted “all the Scriptures” concerning himself: how might this shape the way we read the Old Testament today?
- d. When has Scripture stirred something deep within you?

Part Three: [Luke 24:28-32](#) *Sharing a meal*

- e. What is the significance of the disciples inviting Jesus to stay? How might practicing hospitality open us up to God's presence?
- f. In verse 32, the disciples say, "Were not our hearts burning within us...?" How have you experienced moments when your heart 'burned' with a sense of God's presence or truth?

Part Four: [Luke 24:33-35](#) *Departing and sharing the good news*

- g. What does the disciples' immediate return to Jerusalem tell us about the impact of their encounter with the risen Christ?
 - h. How does the sharing of resurrection experiences among the disciples help to strengthen their faith—and ours today?
4. What was your reaction to these four parts of the story paralleling the four elements of classic worship: Gathering, Scripture/Sermon, Holy Communion, Sending/Departing to witness and to serve?
5. Like Luke and those he was writing to, we were not eyewitnesses to Jesus. What is his ultimate message about how we can see Jesus in our lives today?

Closing Prayer

Dear God, just as you walked with those disciples on the road to Emmaus, walk with us now. Open our eyes to your presence in our lives—especially in the ordinary moments. Kindle in us hearts that burn with love for you, with understanding from your word, and with boldness to share what we've seen and heard. Send us out with joy, renewed faith, and a story to tell. In your name we pray, Amen.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

2025-2026 Series

Thank you for participating in learning more about these eight stories that are essential to our faith and to our lives. Pastor Lose and I hope you will return next year for more! I will send out information later this summer about next year's series that begins October 7, 2025. Questions? Katie Stevenson, Coordinator of Adult Education katies@mtolivet.org | 612.767.2232