

Stowmarket Baptist Church

THURSDAY BIBLE CLUB

16 APRIL 2020

We hope that you enjoy this week's Bible story.

We are praying that you are all kept safe that that we can all meet up again on a Thursday soon.

Hello and welcome to the next part of our Easter story.

You can find this story in Luke chapter 24 verses 13-35.

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" ¹⁹ "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as

the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

We've already thought about the Good Friday story when Jesus died on the cross. Then early on the first Easter Sunday morning, Mary went to

the tomb where they put Jesus' body and to her great surprise, the tomb was empty, Jesus was not there!

Later that same day, two of Jesus' friends were walking from Jerusalem to the village of Emmaus. It was a very long journey and they were both very sad. Do you know why? Jesus was a great friend and leader; they didn't understand why he had died. They had heard that some of the women found the tomb empty, but they weren't sure if it was really true.

Then a stranger came along and walked with them. He asked, "Why are you so sad?" It was Jesus. BUT they did not recognise him! They told the stranger that their great friend Jesus had died in Jerusalem and they were hoping he would rescue them from the Romans. Now it was too late! They missed him very much and were so sad.

The stranger, who was really Jesus, listened carefully to their worries and he explained to them that Jesus was going to rescue all his followers, not from the Romans but from their own sin. He said that the Bible tells us, Christ had to suffer and die, but would come alive again, so he could go back to heaven to prepare a place for them. When the two friends heard this wonderful news, they were amazed. The Bible says their hearts were warmed.

It was evening when they got to Emmaus and they invited the stranger to come and stay with them because it would soon be dark. The three of them sat down to have a meal together.

Then suddenly while they were eating, they realised who the stranger was! He wasn't a stranger at all, it was their dear friend the Lord Jesus, then Jesus just disappeared.

The two friends were so excited and amazed. Jesus is alive. Do you know what they did? They got up and walked all the way back to Jerusalem, to tell the disciples and the women that they had met Jesus. He is alive! They no longer had sad faces but were very happy!



In Jerusalem, they found the followers of Jesus all together. It is true, Jesus is alive. Mary had met Jesus. Peter had met Jesus and the two friends told everyone, "We have met Jesus too." They told their exciting news of all that had happened to them.

The friends were very amazed and excited when they knew that Jesus was alive and was going to heaven to prepare a place for all who believe and trust in him.

Jesus wants us to believe and trust in him too. Are you amazed and excited?

Jesus listened carefully to the two friends, and he still listens to us today when we pray.

*Dear Lord,
Help me believe and trust in the Lord Jesus, like his two friends in today's Bible story.
Thank you that you are alive and listen to our prayers. Thank you for your love. Amen.*