

LEARNING FOCUS 1: On the road to Emmaus.

CONTENT

Display the picture from *God's Story 3* pages 128-129 *On the road to Emmaus* based on Luke 24: 13-35. Immediately after the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, the disciples were unsure and uncertain of the significance of what had happened, until they had met with Jesus who helped them understand. This story from Luke illustrates that:

On the Sunday evening two disciples were on their way to Emmaus, a village seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking about everything that had happened and did not recognise the stranger who joined them as they walked along. "What are you talking about so sadly?" he asked them. They turned to him, their faces full of their sadness. The disciple named Cleopas, answered him. "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who does not know all the things that have been going on these last few days?"

"What things?" Jesus asked. "What happened to Jesus of Nazareth," they said, "The great prophet who showed by all he did and said that he was sent by God. Our chief priests and leaders handed him over to the Romans and he was crucified. We had hoped that he was the Promised One who would set Israel free. This morning, some women went to the tomb where he had been buried and came back saying they had seen a vision of angels and that Jesus was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found it empty as the women had said, but they didn't see anything of Jesus."

Jesus said to them, "How slow you are to believe! Don't you remember the promises of the prophets about the Christ who would suffer and rise to new life?" Then Jesus started with Moses and went through all the Scriptures explaining the message about himself. By now they were near to Emmaus, and they begged him to stay with them. So he did. They sat down at table together. He took the bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them. Suddenly, as if their eyes had just opened, they recognised him; but even as they did, he vanished. "How could we not have known!" they exclaimed. "Weren't our hearts burning as he talked to us and explained the Scriptures to us?" At once they set out and returned to Jerusalem. When they arrived, the Eleven and the other disciples said, "Yes, it's true! He has appeared to Simon!" and then they told their story and how they had recognised him when he blessed and broke the bread.

Based on Luke 24: 13-35

SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q Why did Luke describe the disciples as having 'faces full of sadness'?
- Q What do you think the disciples meant and what were their expectations, when they said 'the Promised One who would set Israel free'?
- Q How did Jesus help the disciples understand what was happening?
- Q What was it about the 'breaking of bread' that made the disciples recognise Jesus?
- Q How did the disciples feel when they recognised the Risen Christ?

ACTIVITY

- Design a story board to show what happened on the road to Emmaus. Annotate the images to show you understand how the disciples knew it was Jesus when they reflected on their experiences.