

## Small Group Questions

April 16, 2017

Easter Sunday

Message: "Hope"



## Introduction

Hope is the word often used in our culture and it can be used in many ways. As a part of the Easter story, the word hope comes up in the context of disappointment. There are so many ways in which we are disappointed in this world and can echo the phrase "we had hoped..." What turns disappointment into joy, excitement and purpose comes in the form of a risen Jesus. All of a sudden, all the ideas and expectations are replaced by the reality of One who is able to conquer sin and death. Hope is Who – the One who has power over death and invites us to know Him and follow Him, come what may. In Jesus, hope is not wishful thinking but a confident expectation that is rooted in the One who has power and offers us a personal relationship with Him.

## Discussion Questions

(Questions to get everyone to participate)

1. In what ways is the word "hope" used in our day?
2. If you got bad news, where is the place you would go to get yourself back together?

(Questions based on the primary text)

Read Luke 24:13-35.

3. Eavesdrop on the two people walking along the road: what things are they likely talking about as they walk (see :19-24)? What tones of voice do you hear? What hopes are dashed? What plans might they be making? How do they react to the "stranger" who turns out to be Jesus?
4. Why do you think Jesus walks the two through the Bible's descriptions and predictions about Himself?
5. When Jesus' disciples first heard about an empty tomb, they didn't believe it (Luke 24:11). What changed their minds? (Luke 24:33-34)
6. Based on the Easter story of Jesus rising from the dead, how would you define the word "hope"?
7. Do you have an Emmaus Road story – a place where Jesus surprised you? What happened?