



Discussion Guide

Date: 6/1/2025

Sermon Title: What am I afraid of?

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

This discussion guide is a layout to be used with a group or class. We have included opening and closing prayers to start and end your group. The guide may be used for personal or family reflection as well.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious and ever-present God, we thank You for walking with us on every road—even the ones marked by fear, confusion, and sorrow. As we gather, open our hearts to Your word, our minds to Your truth, and our eyes to see You in our midst. Transform us by Your grace as we journey together. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Opening Question:

1. Have you ever been on a road trip? Where did you go? Do you have any future trips planned?

Digging into the Word:

1. Begin by reviewing the scripture from Luke 24:13-35; it may be helpful to read the Road to Emmaus story again. What initial thoughts or insights do you see from reading this story?
2. In this story, the two disciples were walking away from Jerusalem, possibly in fear and confusion. What fears or disappointments have ever caused you to “walk away” from something—or someone?
3. What does it say about Jesus that He meets them on the road and walks with them, even when they don’t recognize Him?
4. Verse 16 says, “their eyes were kept from recognizing him.” Why do you think they couldn’t see who Jesus was? How can fear, grief, or unmet expectations keep us from recognizing Christ's presence in our lives?
5. You may want to look at these other supporting texts: Isaiah 43:1-2; Psalm 23:4

Wesleyan Perspective:

John Wesley wrote in his sermon “*The Spirit of Bondage and of Adoption*” that we often pass through a period of fear and blindness before being awakened to the full assurance of God’s presence. How might this “not seeing” be part of a journey toward deeper faith or transformation?

Jesus the Interpreter Questions:

6. In verses 25–27, Jesus explains the scriptures concerning Himself. How does scripture help us reframe our fear and confusion?

7. When have you had an “aha!” moment with God’s word that helped you see your situation differently?
8. If time permits, dig deeper into these supporting scriptures: Romans 10:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17. Be sure to read these in context. Reference the verses prior to and after the selections.

The Table & Recognition:

9. The disciples finally recognize Jesus when He breaks the bread. What does this say about where and how Jesus is revealed?
10. How have shared meals, communion, or table fellowship helped you recognize God’s presence?

Wesleyan Insight:

John Wesley emphasized Holy Communion as a “*means of grace*”—a place where Christ is truly present and where transformation happens. How might regular participation in the Lord’s Supper help open your eyes to Jesus on your journey?

Sermon Questions:

11. Road trips are part of life; we are all on a journey of faith. Pastor Clayton mentions that faith is a journey, not a destination. How does this perspective align with your own faith experience?
12. The first point in the sermon Pastor Clayton said that Jesus “engages” with the disciples on the road? What can we learn from His approach to their confusion and grief?
13. The second point in the sermon we see that Jesus “enlightens” the disciples through Scripture. How has studying the Bible changed your perspective on challenging life events?
14. Pastor Clayton shares that Jesus “encourages” these disciples. Jesus shows up in our journey. Discuss a time when you felt encouraged by Jesus' presence during a difficult period in your life. How did you experience that encouragement?
15. The sermon ends with Communion and the breaking of the bread. How does the act of communion (breaking bread) remind us of Jesus' presence and encouragement?

Applying it:

16. What can we do as a group or family to help each other stay aware of Christ walking with us—especially when life is hard?
17. How does the concept of faith as a journey, rather than a destination, change your approach to your spiritual life?
18. How can we cultivate a practice of recognizing Jesus in our daily interactions and experiences, even when He's not immediately apparent?

CLOSING PRAYER

God of the Road and the Table, Thank You for walking with us in our fear and confusion, even when we don’t recognize You. As we break bread with one another and open the scriptures, may our eyes be opened to Your presence. Let our hearts burn with the joy of Your resurrection. Send us renewed, transformed, and aware that we do not walk alone. In the name of Christ, our traveling companion, Amen.

WAYS TO RESPOND (or challenges for you this week)

1. Commit to reading a short passage of Scripture each day this week, looking specifically for how Jesus “shows up” in the text.



2. Take a short walk this week, inviting Jesus to "walk alongside" you. Reflect on your current life journey and where you see His presence.
3. Reach out to someone who might be going through a difficult time. Practice "showing up" for them as Jesus does for us.
4. In this series of Road Trip, we are encouraging the gratitoad to travel with us and remind us of all to be grateful. Each day, write down one way you recognized God's presence or encouragement in your life.