



## Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

### **Victory Over Despair: The Story that Sets Your Heart on Fire**

*Luke 13:13-35*

<sup>13</sup> Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup> but they were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup> One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?” <sup>19</sup> “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. <sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.” <sup>25</sup> He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. <sup>28</sup> As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup> 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. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup> 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?” <sup>33</sup> They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup> and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” <sup>35</sup> Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

1. What is wearing on you the most about our current circumstances and another month or more of social distance?
2. For what reasons was it difficult for the disciples to comprehend Jesus’ death and believe what the Scriptures had said his about resurrection?
3. What makes it so difficult for us to understand the present circumstances as we are experiencing them?
4. Cleopas, one of those two disciples, said, “We had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.” Do you think he was talking about the physical kingdom of Israel or a spiritual kingdom?
5. Hope and despair are opposites. They exist on a continuum. When one is overwhelming, the other is weak or dead. Why did despair seem to reign for a time over those disciples?
6. Even before Jesus revealed himself to the disciples, what did he use to restore their hope? Why is this so comforting for us today?
7. The two disciples begged Jesus, “Stay with us!” Have you found any new ways or habits to stay with Jesus throughout the day?
8. How does our outlook on everything we face change when Jesus lives?
9. What is a fun and radical thing you could do to share your certain hope in Jesus with someone who desperately needs hope during COVID-19?