



THEME

This is part 2 looking at the story of Jesus walking with his followers on the road to Emmaus. In Part 1 we looked at how we handle disappointment + discouragement > specifically how it affects our faith. In this study we'll look at how we often keep Jesus at a distance + rarely invite him into the deepest, most intimate rooms of our heart.

ANCHORED TO TRUTH

[Luke 24:28-35](#), Revelation 3:20, Matthew 11:28-30

CONVERSATION

1. What's the biggest change you've had to navigate in the past couple years?
 - a. How good are you at dealing with change?
 - b. Why are we generally not huge fans of change?
 - c. Isn't change where all the growth + action happens in life?

2. Check out [Luke 24:28-35](#) >

Story Background: Takes place Easter Sunday > Followers of Jesus are heading back home disappointed. They have no reason to stay in Jerusalem any longer. They're trying to process Jesus' death that past Friday > while they're walking + talking Jesus walks up next to them + explores their disappointment. He spends a good portion of their walk to Emmaus "opening scripture" (the Old Testament) + showing them how his life, death + resurrection fit into the scripture they're so familiar with.

28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, 29 but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" 33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, 34 saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" 35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

3. Why would Jesus pretend like he was going farther + wait for an invitation? Why not just ask to come in?
4. What do you think happens if they don't invite Jesus in for the night?
 - a. Henri Nowen said, "without an invitation Jesus would have remained an interesting stranger". How often do we keep Jesus at "interesting stranger" distance > instead of inviting him into intimate friend?
 - b. Why? Why do we keep him at this distance? What are we afraid of > what are we trying to avoid?
 - c. Are these "fears" justified?
5. Can we sometimes keep our human friendships at "interesting stranger distance" > kinda shallow on purpose?
 - a. Is this motivated by the same fears?
6. How does this affect our relationship with Jesus + others?
 - a. Is there anything we can do to get better at this?

7. Finish up this conversation by talking about the value of eating together > the kind of intimacy that can be found around a table?
- It's been said that in the Gospels *Jesus is on the way to eat with someone, eating with someone, or just coming from eating with someone*. Why would Jesus make such a normal human activity sacred?
 - How can we use ordinary meals for extraordinary moments?

RESPOND

- Are there specific 'rooms' of your heart that you never invite Jesus into? How can we get better at inviting him in?
- Is there a friendship you're in that's been kept at 'interesting stranger' distance > but could be much richer + life giving if you invited them in closer?
 - How could you start this week?

PRAY

- Anybody feel like God's been kinda stuck at a distance?
- Pray about sincere relationship with God + others > and the courage it takes to invite them in.