

SUMMIT SCRIPTURES

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Luke 24:13-35 (NIV)

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles[a] from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"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. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 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. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. 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.

When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 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?"

They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

DWELLING IN THE WORD - HOW TO

Dwelling in the Word is a simple exercise that is rooted in the traditions of the church. It is a practice in which all the people of God can participate. It helps to cultivate and nourish a community rooted in listening to God and each other through Scripture.

1. Read

- Invite people to be open to the Spirit as they listen to the readings of the text and ponder these questions:
 - As the text is read, where do you stop?
 - Are there words, phrases or ideas which grasp you?
 - How do you think the Spirit of God might be nudging you?
- Have two volunteers (male and female) read the passage aloud;
- After the first reading, pause for a brief time of silence;
- Read the questions again.
- After the second reading of the text, pause again for a longer period of silence.

2. Listen

- Find a partner. Where possible, consider someone you might not usually spend time with or do not know. Sit in a comfortable place together where you can hear one another.
- Each person has two minutes to respond to the questions. You may want to ask a question or two in order to understand what your partner is saying and take notes to capture his/her reflections. The focus of attention here is to listen attentively to the other.
- After two minutes, switch around and listen to the other person.

3. Listen Together

- After four or five minutes, come back together as a whole group.
- Invite people to share what they heard their partner saying (not their own questions or thoughts). This is actually much harder than we might first imagine! Rather than listen closely, the temptation is to anticipate what the other will say or jump in and share one's own thoughts.
- Wonder together as a group if there might be any specific ways the Spirit was speaking to you together through the text.

4. Reflect Together

- Take a few minutes to reflect together on what you are learning about listening.