

# Confusion and Discernment

## LUKE 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, **14** and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. **15** While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, **16** but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. **17** And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. **18** Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" **19** He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, **20** and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. **21** But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. **22** Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, **23** and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. **24** Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." **25** Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! **26** Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" **27** Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. **28** As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. **29** But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. **30** When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. **31** Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. **32** They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" **33** That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. **34** They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" **35** Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.



Identify the choices Jesus made in this passage and consider why he did what he did.

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LEADING  
EDGE

# Encounter – **Discern** – Respond

Goal: to come to wisdom and understanding about the meaning of the text for the original audience and for those studying today.

This stage  from confusion to understanding

## CONFUSION

Varied opinions  
Varied interest  
Dissonance  
Questions  
Parts not the whole

Agree on the parts  
Hear people's questions  
Ask for observations  
Listen to one another and the text  
Think together.

Make choices  
Answer key questions  
Summarize and Clarify  
Connect the parts  
Articulate the meaning or point

## UNDERSTANDING

Author's intent  
Motivated clarity  
The central message  
The big picture  
Consensus.

Value of Confusion: it  and clears the path for new insight.

Confusion can be answered from the .

### Good Bible study questions have the following characteristics:

- open-ended: promote discussion, have multiple answers
- real questions, the answer is not totally obvious
- gets the studiers to look back into the text
- highlight relationships
- use the language of the group and the text
- help studiers to identify with emotion in the text or link their own experience to the text
- short and concise
- startling or unexpected
- variety of type and breadth

### THE LEADER'S ROLE: **ACTIVE LISTENING**

- To the text
- To individuals in the group
- To the group process
- To the Holy Spirit

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- Their experience with Jesus is now over. They are on their way home. The followers of Jesus are disbanding.
- Perhaps two of the 70 who participated in the ministry of Jesus (Luke 10:1). Not some of the 12 disciples (see v. 33)



Identify the choices Jesus made in this passage and consider why he did what he did.

- He keeps his identity hidden. He doesn't want them to recognize them yet so that he can take the time to teach them. Once they do recognize him they might be so excited that they can't listen.
- He asks them questions. He wants to hear their story and reveal their perspective on his life and death. Telling the story is for their sake, not his.
- He pretends to be going further. He is being polite; gives them an opportunity to ask for more.
- He teaches them from the OT, perhaps including Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53. Jesus reinterprets the scripture in light of his own life, death, and resurrection.
- He gathers them in like a shepherd bringing back wandering sheep. He brings their dashed hopes to the surface; he makes sense of their experience through the scripture, and then reveals himself in the breaking of the bread.
- He disappears when they recognize him. His leaving punctuates the supernatural aspect of his resurrection and moves them to run back to the rest of the disciples.

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