

8. Encounter with a Stranger



Luke 24:13-35

GATHER

Sketch & Jot Journal

- Make colored pens, pencils, and colored pencils available. Invite each student to retrieve their Sketch & Jot Journal (or take a new one and write their name on the back). Encourage the students to respond to the prompt on page 16. You may want to play quiet music during this time.
- After some time, invite your students to share their responses as they are comfortable.

SAY: In today's story, two of Jesus' disciples find themselves in an ironic situation. Jesus appears to them after his resurrection, but they don't recognize him. So, they start telling Jesus all about Jesus! When we read the story, we'll find out how Jesus responds.

EXPLORE

Bible Reading

- Invite your students to look up Luke 24:13-35

Journaling options

- **1:** The disciples were very sad and downcast after Jesus' death. Yet, when Jesus came to them, they didn't recognize him. What do you think kept the disciples from recognizing him? The disciples still didn't recognize Jesus as he taught them about the Scriptures, even though he must have taught them many times before his death. They finally recognized Jesus when he took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. Why do you think this particular action caused the disciples finally to recognize Jesus? How do you think they felt when Jesus disappeared? How do you think they felt as they hurried back to Jerusalem to tell the other disciples?
- **2:** This story suggests that Jesus might be present with us when we are interacting with strangers. Hebrews 13:2 says that some people "have been hosts to angels without knowing it." What do you think of the idea that God, or angels, might interact with us without us even realizing it? Have you ever had an interaction that you felt was sacred or holy when you looked back on it? Do you think God communicates with us through other people? Why or why not?

RESPOND

Magazine Discussion

- Read the article on pages 14-15 and respond to any prompts.

BLESS

Individual Prayer

- Invite your students to get their Sketch & Jot Journals and to gather in your worship space. Make colored pens and colored pencils available.
- Encourage the students to complete the prayer activity on page 17. You may want to play quiet music to encourage a reflective atmosphere.