

Participant Guide

69th Synod
October 18 & 19, 2024
Anglican Diocese of Edmonton



HEARTS
BURNING
WITHIN
US

Luke
24:32

Bible Study
69th Synod
of the Diocese of Edmonton

Participant's Guide for Pre-Synod Bible Study

Greetings! Thank you for participating in this Bible Study in preparation for our Diocesan Synod in October. Our Synod is far more than a business meeting. We are disciples of Jesus Christ gathering together for prayer and mutual discernment about where God is calling us to act in the world. This Bible Study is meant to be a time of prayer and preparation for the Synod using the story of the Emmaus Road as a focus. The Emmaus Road story has been used by Christians for centuries to meditate on the experience of meeting the risen Jesus on the road. We pray that you find this experience rich and insightful as you also encounter the risen Christ in this story.

Title:

Hearts Burning Within Us – A Pre-Synod Bible Study

Text:

Luke 24:13-35

Reading and Meditating with the Text:

Using some form of reading inspired by the practices known as Lectio Divina, Gospel Based Discipleship, and Dwelling in the Word, groups are encouraged to read the text out loud together in full two times. As they do, participants will listen to and meditate on the reading with two main questions in mind:

- Reading 1 – What word, phrase, or idea stood out for you? (People are invited to share without anyone commenting on or responding to each other)
- Reading 2 – What is the Spirit of God saying to you about our family of churches through this text? (People are invited to share without anyone commenting on or responding to each other)



Discussion Questions:

- What does it mean to you to make Jesus and the Gospel the center of our story? What does doing this look like in practice? What should we do if it seems to take different forms for some than for others?
- Can you identify any potential parallels between how these disciples must have been feeling about their situation and how we are feeling about trying to be faithful disciples in the church today? How could this story perhaps help us to change the way we think and talk about our challenges and uncertainty?
- If you had to describe your parish and/or our diocesan family of churches in recent years, would you say we have been more comfortable in the Upper Room in Jerusalem or moving about on our own kind of Road to Emmaus? Which of these feels more comfortable to you personally? What would it look like to you to pursue the latter?
- Where are some of the seemingly unexpected places that you believe you are seeing Jesus most present and at work today? In what kinds of contexts and encounters does God cause your heart burn within you?
- Do you have people and places you can share these recognitions of Jesus with?

Synod Prayer:

O God our Creator, you have always sent out your peoples in every age along unfamiliar paths as witnesses to your mercy and love. Each time you have shown us that it is in our faithful steps of journey into the unexpected where you will meet us afresh and anew. Draw near to us now, your church in synod, and walk closely with us as we prepare to travel this stretch of a shifting and uncertain road. Tell us yet again of your Good News for the strivings and longings of this time and place and cause our hearts to burn within us as we remember our call to become the story we tell. Through Christ, in the Spirit, for the life of the world. Amen.



Appendix

NRSV Translation:

¹³ 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.



First Nations Version:

¹³On the same day, two of the followers of Creator Sets Free (Jesus) were walking to Village of Warm Springs (Emmaus), seven miles out from Village of Peace (Jerusalem). ¹⁴As they walked along, they were talking about all that had happened. ¹⁵Creator Sets Free (Jesus) came alongside them as they walked, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from seeing who he was.

¹⁷He said to them, "What are you talking about?"

They stopped walking and a look of sadness fell over their faces. ¹⁸One of the men, Honored by His Father (Cleopas), answered him, "How can you not know about the things that have happened in Village of Peace (Jerusalem)? You must be coming from far away."

¹⁹"What things are you talking about?" he asked.

"About Creator Sets Free (Jesus) from Seed Planter Village (Nazareth). He was a prophet from the Great Spirit, with powerful medicine, who did many good things among all the people. ²⁰The head holy men and other leaders handed him over to the People of Iron (Romans) to be put to death on the cross. ²¹We had hoped that he would free the tribes of Wrestles with Creator (Israel) *from the People of Iron (Romans)*. It is now the third day since they killed him on the cross, ²²⁻²³but today some women told us an amazing story. Early this morning they went to his burial cave and found that his body was not there. They told us about visions of spirit-messengers who told them he was alive! ²⁴Some of our men went to see with their own eyes and found the empty cave, but they did not see Creator Sets Free (Jesus)."

²⁵"Why are your hearts so slow to believe the words of the prophets?" he said. ²⁶"It should be clear to you that the Chosen One would suffer first before he would be lifted up and honored above all."

²⁷So Creator Sets Free (Jesus) told them his story, beginning with Drawn from the Water (Moses) and all the prophets. He showed them how all the ancient Sacred Teachings were written about the Chosen One and pointed the way to him. *They still did not know it was Creator Sets Free (Jesus) talking to them.*

²⁸As they entered the village, he walked on as if to go farther. ²⁹They said to him, "Please, stay with us. It is late, and the sun will soon set."

So he went into the lodging house with them. ³⁰When they sat down to eat a meal together, Creator Sets Free (Jesus) took some bannock into his hands. He gave thanks and broke it, giving each of them a piece. ³¹Suddenly, their eyes were opened and they knew who he was, but he vanished right in front of them.

³²The men looked at each other in wide-eyed wonder and said, "It felt like our hearts were on fire when he was talking with us on the road, showing us the meaning of the Sacred Teachings!"

³³They got up without finishing their meal and walked back to Village of Peace (Jerusalem) as fast as they could, for the sun was setting. They found where the eleven had gathered together with the others.



³⁴They were saying, "Our Wisdomkeeper is alive! He has shown himself to One Who Hears (Simon)."

³⁵So the two men told them what happened on the road and how their eyes were opened when Creator Sets Free (Jesus) broke the bannock into pieces.

