

## Taking It Home:

- All of us have issues of shame and fear and regret in our lives. All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's standard. This reality keeps us from God (Romans 6:23). To what extent are you willing to acknowledge this in your own life? What are the ways in which you know these things to be true of you? (see Romans 3:23 and Psalm 14:3)
- Because we have fallen short of God's standard, we need help. We cannot appease God or in any way earn his favor. Knowing this reality, God sent his son Jesus to die on a cross to pay the penalty for our sin, thus purchasing for us passage from shame and fear and regret to honor and power and forgiveness (see John 3:16 and Romans 5:8). What might this mean for you?
- Three days after his death Jesus rose from the dead. By dying on a cross Jesus paid in full the penalty of our sin. By rising from the dead he demonstrated victory over sin and death and the devil, and proved that anyone who calls on him in faith can also have assurance of that same victory in his or her own life. What are the implications of this for your life?
- The Bible says, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). It also teaches us that "Everyone who believe in him (Jesus) will not be put to shame" (Romans 10:11). If you have not already done so, is there anything keeping you today from calling on Jesus for salvation, and if so, what is it?
- If you would like the assurance that you have a real relationship with God, forgiveness of sins, and eternal hope, then you might humbly and honestly pray something like the following: God, I agree with you that I'm a sinner. I'm tired of wandering dizzily down life's pathway, searching for honor and meaning but always coming up short. Shame and regret reveal where I've been, and my future seems hopeless. But I understand that Jesus is your provision for my need. He shed his blood on a cross to buy my salvation, to purchase my passage from a life of sin and shame and separation from you, to a life of forgiveness and honor and restoration with you. I understand he rose from the dead to confirm his power over sin and death, and to prove that through him I can have new life. Because of these things I confess Jesus as my Savior and Lord. Thank you, God, for forgiving me and giving me eternal life. Starting today, help me to become the kind of person you want me to be. Amen
- If today you have confessed Jesus Christ as your Savior, then tell someone! Contact your church so they can encourage you and help you grow in your relationship with God. You can contact Bethel Church by email at [info@bethelfc.com](mailto:info@bethelfc.com) or by phone at 701-232-4476 and ask for a pastor.

For a restatement of Pastor Matthew's sermon points, visit [pastormatthew.net](http://pastormatthew.net) and click on the "Write This Down" tab.

**Easter Sunday**  
Come Awake!  
Luke 24: 13-35

Dr. Matthew R. St. John  
Bethel Church  
April 8, 2012

## Come Awake!

Notes:

For more information about Growth Groups, Growth Group homework, and a podcast of sermons with homework, visit [www.bethelfc.com](http://www.bethelfc.com).

# Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 8, 2012

Luke 24: 13-35

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**Quick Review:** Despite the appearance of having it all together, many of us walk dizzily down life's pathway unsure of where we are going, if what we do has any meaning, and if our lives have any real value. We are on a quest to awaken from the deep weariness of shame and powerlessness, but have no real idea how to do that or if it is even possible.

## My Story:

- Are you one of those people consumed with looking good to a watching world, but deep within yourself you are flailing around, profoundly unsure of where you are going, who you are, and if you have any purpose? If the answer is "Yes," then why?
- And if the answer to the question is "Yes," then what is it that you are really looking for? Be as brutally honest and introspective as possible.
- Again, if the answer to the first question is "Yes," then what has kept you from finding what you want? What would you give to attain peace, purpose and lasting satisfaction in your life?

## Growing Deeper:

- Luke 24:13-24 tells the story of two friends struggling with dashed dreams and fruitless hope. Read the passage carefully and identify in what ways you can relate to their frustration about expectations for life that are unrealized.
- Pastor Matthew spoke of the desire these men had for Jesus to "redeem" their nation (see Luke 24:21). What did Pastor Matthew say that meant? Why is the concept of redemption powerful and necessary for you?
- Going further into Luke 24 it becomes evident that the stranger who comes and walks alongside the two friends is Jesus himself, though they do not yet perceive it to be so. Jesus explains to them why it was necessary for him to suffer (Luke 24:26). What might that mean? See 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 9:22, 10:1-18; Philippians 2:1-11; Mark 10:45; and Isaiah 52:13-53:12 for greater insight.
- The fact that Jesus was personally sharing from the Scriptures the things relating to his suffering foils the fears the two men had that Jesus' death brought an end to any hope. What are the implications of Jesus' resurrection for their lives? What about for your life? Read 1 Corinthians 15:17-22 for further understanding.