



## Message Discussion Guide Week of April 16, 2023

**Message:** Encounters with Jesus, Part 1: From Disappointment to Hope

**Key Scripture:** [Luke 24:13-35](#)

**Preacher:** Tom Parkinson

### **Message Highlights:**

A paradigm is the theoretical framework through which we make sense of the world. A paradigm shift occurs when new information makes the old framework untenable and everything changes.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ marks a paradigm shift.

- Under the old paradigm, people are born, live, and die...and stay dead.
- Under the paradigm of Judaism, the coming messiah does not end up nailed to a Roman cross.
- Jesus' resurrection shatters the paradigm, making it hard for the disciples to believe.

The disciples are presented with strong evidence that Jesus is alive, but they still don't believe it because it is so far outside their paradigm. The two disciples on the way to Emmaus are downcast and disappointed.

- They feel the Jesus movement is over, although Jesus is alive and is in fact standing with them.
- They fail to see the truth because they are stuck in the old paradigm.

So often, the disappointments that we feel arise because we are seeing through old lenses. Through the lens of the resurrection of Jesus, we can see in our hardships not disappointments but hope. Because we know that God is working all things out.

What enabled the disciples to see a new paradigm was when Jesus taught them from the Word of God and shared the table with them.

- Word and table are at the center of Christian worship. Worship is meant to help us see the world rightly and interpret the world through the lens of hope.

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) Have you ever experienced a paradigm shift in your life? Did you find yourself holding onto old ways of thinking, or were you eager to embrace the new way? How did the paradigm shift change you?
- 2) Can you think of a time when your mind became consumed with disappointment and when you saw everything through a lens of despair? Why is it so easy to see everything as “gloom and doom?” How can you intentionally cultivate a hope-filled mindset?
- 3) [Read Luke 24:13-35](#)
  - Why are the disciples unable to see the truth of the resurrection?
  - Why are they disappointed? What were they hoping for?
  - How does Jesus respond to their disappointment? Why doesn't he reveal himself to them sooner?
  - How does this passage illustrate a paradigm shift taking place?
- 4) Why is it so easy for us to become consumed with disappointment, discouragement, and doubt?
- 5) Why is it important to worship? How does proclamation of God's Word and coming to God's table help you see the world rightly?
- 6) What do you hear in this message that you can apply to your life this week?

**Abundant Life Tip:** When you are feeling discouraged or disappointed, open the scriptures and reorient yourself to the hope of Christ. Try to see your problems through the lens of God's eternal love and keep everything in that perspective.