



S1.Lesson 24: Eating Together

Middle School Lesson Plans

NOTE: This lesson is designed around the idea of the class having a meal together.

Supplies: A meal of some kind; a place to sit together in order to eat and talk before, during and after the meal.

OPENING PRAYER

READ Luke 24:13-33 (Emmaus)

13 On the day of Jesus' resurrection two followers of Jesus were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. 14 They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. 15 In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. 16 But they did not recognize who he was. 17 He asked, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?" 18 Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what's happened during the last few days?" 19 Jesus asked, "What has happened?"

20 They said, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the people. Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him. 21 And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One who would deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened.

22 But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb 23 and couldn't find Jesus' body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. 24 Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn't see Jesus." 25 Then Jesus said to them, "So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can't you simply believe all that the prophets said? 26 Don't you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?" 27 Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him. 28 They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on 29 but they pressed him: "Stay and have supper with us. It's nearly evening; the day is done." So he went in with them.

30 And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. 31 At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared. 32 Back and forth they talked. "Didn't we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road,

as he opened up the Scriptures for us?" 33 They didn't waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem.

ASK

- How do you usually identify who someone is? (how they look, where they are, how they sound, what they say, what they do).
- Of these things that you mentioned, were the 2 followers able to do those things when walking and talking with Jesus? (yes)
- But they didn't recognize Jesus for quite awhile, did they? (no, they didn't).
- What did Jesus finally do that caused the followers to recognize him? (Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them).
- What happened once they did recognize Jesus? (Jesus disappeared)
- Were the followers distraught by Jesus' disappearance? (No, not at all)
- Do you think Jesus' disappearance meant that he had left?
- What did Jesus appearance and then disappearance change for the followers? (They changed their destination. They turned around and went back from where they had come from – Jerusalem).

TELL

- Food is a daily reminder that each of us need to receive in order to move, to grow, to live.
- When we take that daily reminder of food, like Jesus did, invite God into our eating of it, like Jesus did, prepare the food, like Jesus did (his preparation was pretty simple: He broke the bread and then share it with each other, like Jesus did (he gave it), then we are inviting God into a very powerful reminder that we cannot live on our own.
- By inviting God into this reminder, we are able to see more clearly, just like the followers were able to suddenly see who Jesus was.
- It can even change our focus, just like the followers changed their focus from Emmaus to Jerusalem.

So when our food arrives today, let's do this:

- Let's take our food, when it comes.
- Then we'll each say a prayer (out loud or silently) of thanksgiving for the food
- Then we'll prepare a piece of it in some way
- Then we'll offer it to the person to the right of us. (note: check with your neighbor about food allergies)

EAT MEAL

CLOSING PRAYER