

## Small Group Curriculum

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### Still Wondering • Week 2 • Can we really trust the Bible?

Sometimes before and definitely after we place our faith in Jesus, we're told to trust this book called the Bible; that it's God's words to us. But can we really trust something written by so many human authors over such a long period of time? In short, yes. One compelling reason to trust the Bible is that Jesus did. If the *pioneer and perfecter of our faith* trusts scripture, then we can too. Let's look at some reasons why Jesus is confident in these ancient writings as *living and active* (Hebrews 4:12 and 12:2).

### REMINDERS

- [New Believers class](#): a two-week introduction to new faith and life in Jesus and how to begin growing in this relationship on Sunday, April 26th & May 3rd, 11:15am-12:30pm.
- [Awakening 201](#): a three-week membership class specifically crafted to guide you through a clear and practical pathway to growing as a follower of Jesus on Sunday, May 17th, 24th, & 31st, 11:15am - 12:30pm.
- All upcoming events can be found [here](#).

### ICEBREAKER

- Paper books or ereaders?
- Print or audiobooks?

### INTRODUCTION

When Jesus is speaking to the crowd in his Sermon on the Mount, he says, *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”* (Matthew 5:17-18).

What did he mean that he came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets? Jesus used this term as a catch-all for all the scripture they had at the time, our Old Testament. It is estimated that 10% of Jesus' recorded words in the New Testament are quotes and allusions from the Old Testament, or in other words, the Law and the Prophets. Jesus knew his Bible and he proclaimed it as true and trustworthy.

# AWAKENING

## DISCUSSION

Read [Luke 24:13-35](#).

- Why are the two travelling on the road described as “downcast”?
- Why does Jesus say they are “slow to understand”?
- When do they finally recognize him?
- Note the delay from when Jesus explains “all the Scriptures concerning himself” and when they recognize him. Have you had a similar experience with the Bible, a time when the words have not made sense until a personal encounter with Jesus? Or are you currently waiting in confusion for Jesus to show up?
- Identify where in the story you relate to the two travelling with Jesus: downcast and confused, in awe and understanding, excited and sharing with others.

Read [Luke 24:36-49](#).

- After hearing the testimonies of several people - Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and the other women with them, Simon Peter, and the two travelling on the road - were the eleven disciples expecting to see Jesus? How did they react to him?
- How is their interaction with Jesus similar to that of the two travelling on the road to Emmaus? What is new?
- Read [Acts 1:1-8](#) (or 1:8). What had the Father promised to send?

Read [1 Corinthians 2:6-16](#) (or 2:12-13).

- What does the Spirit do? What does the Spirit help us do and understand?
- How does this impact your posture towards scripture? What is encouraging? What is challenging?

## RESPONSE

- Think again of where you identify with the two travelling on the road to Emmaus. What support do you need from your group? Where do you need your group’s help to hold you accountable in your relationship with Jesus - seeking, worship, confession, repentance?
- Who in your life, perhaps confused by or closed off to scripture or religion, could you pray and ask Jesus to personally encounter?



## PRAYER

Do a Lectio Divina on these verses, then end your time in prayer together.

*Lectio Divina (Latin for “divine reading”) is an ancient Christian practice of reading Scripture slowly and prayerfully, meditating on God’s Word, and listening for God’s voice.*

*Lectio* - Read the Scripture slowly

*Meditatio* - Read the Scripture and meditate on it; intentionally listen for the “still, small voice” of the Holy Spirit to highlight a word or phrase to you

*Oratio* - Read the Scripture and respond by praying it back to God

*Contemplatio* - Read the Scripture and rest in God’s presence by sitting in silence

*Ephesians 1:15-23*

*For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*