

Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, April 3rd 2016

The Gospel in Story | Understanding the Scriptures (Lk 24:36-53)

1. Doug related the miraculous story of him falling out of the tree as a boy and getting caught on a pine tree by his britches to explain the confusion felt by the disciples after the resurrection. "Their minds needed time to catch up to what their eyes had just seen" he said. Life often unravels without pausing to allow our "minds to catch up." Can you relate a moment in your life when you couldn't believe what you had just witnessed?
2. Jesus took time to allow the disciples to look at and touch his wounds. He let them "open their eyes" to the evidence of his resurrection. What evidence of Jesus's resurrection is in your life? What are you still waiting to see?
3. Read Isaiah 53. How does this ancient passage "open your mind" to the reality of Jesus being sacrificed for you?
4. Doug explained that open eyes and open minds, lead to open mouths and saved lives. Where might God be leading you to open your own mouth about his work on the cross? Does anyone come to mind to invite to church?
5. Doug pointed to Peter in Acts and how he took the same approach that Jesus took to testify on Pentecost. If "all" we need to do is open our mouths to show people the evidence and the scriptures in testifying for Jesus, why is it so hard to do sometimes? (Hint: verse 49)
6. "...Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all the nations." If that is our mission, as followers of Christ, what are some ways we can be more focused on it? What is NOT part of our mission according to Jesus? How can we encourage those around us to keep working?