

JANUARY 2025 PRAYER SERVICE

Prayer Service for Chapter 5 of “On the Road to Emmaus” Study Topic

The Chapter focuses on Luke 24:25-27

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TIME FOR SCRIPTURE:

Luke 24:25-27 recounts a vital moment after the **resurrection of Jesus**, where **He** explains to two disciples on the road to **Emmaus** how the **Scriptures** foretold **His suffering and glory**. In this passage, **Jesus** emphasizes the necessity of **His** passion and how it aligns with the prophecies found in the **Old Testament**. A complementary scripture passage that echoes this theme is in **John 5:39-40**, where **Jesus** states, *"Search the Scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And you will not come to me, that you might have life."*

This passage reinforces the idea that the **Scriptures** bear witness to **Christ** and that understanding the **Old Testament** is crucial for recognizing **His** identity and mission. It highlights the continuity between the **Old and New Testaments**, affirming that salvation history's entire narrative points to **Jesus** as fulfilling **God's** promises. The connection between these passages illustrates the integral role of **Scripture** in understanding **Christ's life, death, and resurrection**, as well as the necessity of faith in **Him** for eternal life.

Another relevant passage is found in **Matthew 5:17**, where **Jesus** declares, *"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them."* This statement further emphasizes the continuity and fulfillment of the **Old Testament** in the person of **Jesus**, aligning with the message conveyed in **Luke 24:25-27**.

Together, these passages illustrate the profound relationship between **Jesus** and the **Scriptures**, affirming that the events of **His** life were not random but rather the fulfillment of **God's** divine plan as revealed in the sacred texts.

John 5:39-40

Search the Scriptures; for in them you think you have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And you will not come to me, that you might have life.

Matthew 5:17

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A TIME OF SILENT MEDITATION:

SHARED PRAYER ON SCRIPTURAL TEXT:

The intent is reflection in the form of a prayer, not discussion.

PRAYER INTENTIONS:

➤ Pass card or cross, so people can pass gracefully and the team knows when the prayer is complete.

➤ The team should respond at the end of each person's turn, for example, "Lord, hear our prayer".

LITURGICAL PRAYER:

A Psalm that complements **Luke 24:25-27** is **Psalm 22**, mainly because it reflects the themes of **suffering** and eventual **vindication** central to Jesus' explanation of the **Scriptures** to the disciples. **Psalm 22** begins with the poignant cry, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (**Psalm 22:1**), which **Jesus Himself** quotes while on the cross (Matthew 27:45; Mark 15:34). This connection highlights the profound suffering that the **Messiah** would endure, which is a key aspect of the prophecies **Jesus** refers to in **Luke 24**.

Moreover, **Psalm 22** progresses from **despair to hope**, ultimately expressing trust in **God's deliverance**. The **Psalmist** recalls **God's faithfulness** and the history of salvation, stating, "You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you descendants of **Jacob**, honor Him! **Revere Him**, all you descendants of **Israel**!" (Psalm 22:23). This transition from **suffering to praise** mirrors the journey of the disciples as they come to understand the necessity of **Jesus'** suffering and the glory that follows, as **He** explains to them how the **Scriptures** point to Him.

Additionally, **Psalm 119:105**, which states, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path," complements the theme of enlightenment found in **Luke 24:27**, where **Jesus** opens the **Scriptures** to the disciples. This **Psalm** emphasizes the guiding role of God's Word, illuminating the understanding of **His plan** for salvation through **Christ**.

Together, these **Psalms** encapsulate the essence of **Jesus's** message to the disciples, affirming the significance of **His** suffering and the fulfillment of the **Scriptures** in **His** life and mission.

Psalm 22:2, 6-7, 9-10, 17-19, 23-27

Response: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

*To you they cried out and they escaped;
in you they trusted and were not disappointed.
But I am a worm, not a man,
scorned by men, despised by the people.*

Response: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

*He relied on the Lord - let him deliver him;
if he loves him, let him rescue him.
For you drew me forth from the womb,
made me safe at my mother's breasts.*

Response: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

*Dogs surround me;
a pack of evildoers closes in on me.
They have pierced my hands and my feet.*

Response: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

*I can count all my bones.
They stare at me and gloat.
They divide my garments among them;
for my clothing they cast lots.*

Response: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

*You who fear the Lord, give praise!
All descendants of Jacob, give honor;
show reverence, all descendants of Israel!*

Response: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

*For he has not spurned or disdained
the misery of this poor wretch.
Did not turn away from me,
but heard me when I cried out.*

Response: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

*I will offer praise in the great assembly;
my vows I will fulfill before those who fear him.
The poor will eat their fill;
those who seek the Lord will offer praise.
May your hearts enjoy life forever!*

Response: *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*

CONCLUSION OF PRAYER TIME:

The passages from **Luke 24:25-27**, **John 5:39-40**, and **Psalm 22** can be reflected upon in a manner that highlights ***their interconnected themes of doubt, despair, and the hope of resurrection.***

All: *Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of Your Word, which guides us and reveals Your truth. Help us to see how the Scriptures testify to Your Son, Jesus Christ, and to understand the depth of His suffering and glory. May we, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, have our hearts set ablaze as we encounter You in the Scriptures.*

We pray that we may always seek You with open hearts, recognizing the fulfillment of Your promises in our lives. As we reflect on Psalm 22, may we find hope in our struggles, trusting in Your faithfulness and deliverance. Guide us to share this light with others, leading them to the joy of knowing You.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

DEEP POOLING:

This is a time to share on more serious matters or when the input of the group is requested. This will not necessarily happen at all meetings.

SHARING ON THE ENDEAVORS:

We join teams in order to enlist the help of others in growing closer to God. The “endeavors” are practices which we voluntarily assume. They have been found to be a means of drawing us closer as a couple and in furthering our spiritual growth. By sharing on the endeavors at the team meeting we seek help and encouragement from our teammates in our journey.