

What Do You Seek?

Take-Home: Stay with Us (The Road to Emmaus)

A standalone deep-dive session

What We Found

On Easter afternoon, two disciples walked away from Jerusalem with their hope in the past tense: we had hoped. The risen Jesus drew near and walked beside them unrecognized, and His method was the astonishment: questions first, then a long stretch of the road spent listening, absorbing the story of His own death from their mouths before He explained a word. Then He opened the scriptures, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, the things concerning Himself, and we recovered a sample ourselves in Psalm 22: pierced hands, a staring crowd, garments divided by lot, written centuries before Good Friday, and felt a flicker of why their hearts burned. At the threshold came the most delicate sentence in the Gospels: He appeared to be going further. It was as if He would not cross uninvited; the evening turned on their free “stay with us.” Inside, the guest became host, took, blessed, broke, gave, and their eyes were opened in the breaking of the bread, the structure every Mass has walked ever since: the road, then the table, one act. And the proof was their feet: the same seven miles taken back that same hour, toward the city dead hope had abandoned.

Voices Worth Keeping

St. Augustine *Easter sermons (summary)*

Where did the Lord will to be recognized? In the breaking of the bread; and whoever receives it with faith is not worse off than the two at Emmaus.

St. Gregory the Great *Homilies on the Gospels (summary)*

They did not know God in the explanation of Scripture; when they set a table for the stranger, He was known to them in the breaking of the bread: whoever would see Him must first practice hospitality.

Pope St. John Paul II *Mane Nobiscum Domine (summary)*

The whole Church is those two on the road: hearts slow, hopes bruised, joined by a Companion recognized in the breaking of bread, and sent back that same hour with the news.

Live It This Week

1. Take one walk this week where your only job is questions and listening.
2. Read Psalm 22 whole, then Luke 23 beside it. Let the two texts introduce each other.
3. If your hope is in the past tense, pray the disciples' sentence once, exactly as they said it: stay with us.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE

"Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread." Luke 24:35

If You Want More

This session stands alone, and it is the natural finale of the deep-dive shelf: the shelf's only post-Resurrection encounter, and the bridge to the Mass, where the road and the table run in the same order every week. **Catechism references:** CCC 1347, 1346, 112.