**The Emmaus Disciples**

**A Bible Story From**

**Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-48**

**Bible Story Number: 2010480**

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**The Emmaus Disciples**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

Jesus appeared to many of his followers after he was resurrected. The next story in this series is about some of these events. Jesus’ appearances near the tomb and those in this story are only a few of those recorded in the Bible. These events, along with his other post-resurrection appearances, validate the truth of his resurrection.

The customs at mealtimes were different during biblical times. This story includes one of these customs—those enjoying a meal together reclined at the table, rather than sitting in chairs.

 This story mentions the eleven disciples. This refers to the original twelve disciples without Judas Iscariot. This is a reference to who they were, rather than an actual count. We learn later that Thomas was not present when Jesus appeared to his disciples in the last part of this story. They are referred to as the Eleven even though Thomas, one of the original Twelve, was not there.

**Story from the Bible**

**Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-48**

This is what the Bible says.

The day that Jesus was resurrected, two of his followers were on their way to the village of Emmaus. The town is about seven miles from Jerusalem.

They were discussing and arguing about all that had happened in Jerusalem during the last few days. Jesus came near and began to walk along with them. They were prevented from recognizing him.

Jesus asked them what they were arguing about. They were surprised and stopped. They looked discouraged.

Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him by asking if he was the only person in Jerusalem who didn’t know about the things that had happened. But Jesus just responded, “What things?”

So they began to tell him about what had happened. They told him about Jesus from Nazareth—how he was a prophet; he was a powerful speaker and he also performed miracles. The chief priests and other religious leaders helped him be sentenced to death and finally crucified.

They also told him that they were hoping that he really was the promised Messiah. They wanted him to redeem Israel.

They went on to say that this was the third day and that some women from their group had gone to the tomb earlier that day. The women brought back astonishing news saying that his tomb was empty. His body was gone. Then they said they saw angels who told them Jesus was alive.

They said that some of their companions went to the tomb to see for themselves and found the tomb empty, just as the women had said. However, they did not see Jesus.

Jesus, knowing that they still did not recognize him, told them they were so unwise and slow to believe in their hearts all that the prophets had revealed. He reminded them that the prophets had told them that the Messiah would suffer these things before he would enter into his glory. Then he began with Moses and went through all the prophets interpreting what the Bible said about him.

When they were about to arrive at their destination in Emmaus, Jesus gave them the impression that he was going farther. They urged him to stay with them because the day was almost over. So Jesus agreed to stay with them.

He reclined with them at the table. During the meal, he took bread, blessed it and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. As soon as they realized who he was, he disappeared.

They were amazed. As they talked to one another, they admitted that their hearts were on fire as they listened to him explain the Bible while they were walking.

So they got up right away and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven disciples and others who were gathered with them. They said, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” Then the ones who had seen him along the road told them about their experience. They told how he made himself known to them during the meal by breaking and blessing the bread.

While they were telling what happened, Jesus appeared. Everyone was startled and frightened. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

Jesus greeted them with a simple greeting. He said, “Peace to you.” Then he asked why they were so afraid and why they had such doubts in their hearts. He held out his hands and showed his feet so they could see where he had been nailed on the cross. He wanted them to know it was really him. He offered for them to touch him so they would know he was really there. He told them that ghosts do not have flesh and bones.

They were amazed and still didn’t believe he was really alive, so Jesus asked them if they had anything to eat. They gave him a piece of broiled fish and he took it and ate it right in front of them.

Then Jesus reminded them of the things he had said before he was crucified. He helped them remember how he did everything that was predicted by the prophets. He explained that he had fulfilled everything that was recorded in the Bible (the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms).

Then he opened their minds to understand these teachings about him from the Bible. He told them that the Bible had predicted that he would suffer and die. It also said he would rise again on the third day and that repentance for forgiveness of sin would be proclaimed in his name to all the peoples, beginning in Jerusalem and spreading all around the world.

Jesus told them that they would be witnesses of these things. He was sending them to do what God the Father had promised, but he told them to wait in the city until they received power from God.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* When did this event happen?
* Where were the two followers of Jesus traveling?
* What was their attitude as they talked about the recent events?
* Did they immediately recognize Jesus? Why or why not?
* What surprised them about this person they met on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus?
* What did they first tell Jesus?
* What did Jesus say to them?
* When they were about to arrive at Emmaus, what impression did they get from Jesus?
* What invitation did they extend to Jesus? How did Jesus respond?
* What did Jesus say during the meal?
* How did they recognize Jesus?
* What happened as soon as they recognized Jesus?
* Where did they go after they recognized Jesus?
* What happened when they arrived back in Jerusalem?
* What did Jesus tell his followers they would do?
* What did Jesus tell them to wait for?
* What does this teach us about God?
* What should we do in response to this teaching?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.