

Bible reading Luke 24:13-35

Joining the dots

THIS WEEK WE EXPLORE HOW THE EMMAUS ROAD STORY REVEALS MORE ABOUT EASTER.

Two disciples walk back from Jerusalem to their home in Emmaus. They are in despair about the death of Jesus. Jesus appears and walks beside them, but they do not recognise him. He teaches them from the Scriptures, and they see who he is when he breaks bread with them. Thomas cries out, 'My Lord and my God!'



REFLECT



Take a look at Ceri Richards' sketch of 'The supper at Emmaus', which is included in the Methodist Collection of Modern Art.

<https://www.methodist.org.uk/our-faith/life-and-faith/the-methodist-modern-art-collection/browse-the-collection/the-supper-at-emmaus-ceri-richards/>

How does the image make you feel? You can't miss the big hands and feet of its three figures, though the picture's bold colours are also very striking. Look for the key elements of the Bible passage. Can you see a cross? The blue and yellow seem to suggest that the risen Jesus is joining heaven and earth; a miraculous event is taking place in a simple, domestic setting. What alternative title would you give the painting?



BAKE



Flatbreads

You will need: plain flour, salt, olive oil, water, oven and kitchen utensils. https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/quick_flatbreads_43123

Jesus revealed himself to the travellers in a simple act of breaking bread and sharing a meal together. Make easy flatbreads to share with others. You might discover more about Jesus as you do this.



Play a puzzle game that you enjoy, or have a go at this online join-the-dots game: https://api.razzlepuzzles.com/dot_connect Do you get a sense of satisfaction when a riddle is solved, or the solution becomes apparent? You can often see the image in a simple dot-to-dot puzzle, hiding in plain sight. What have you discovered and rediscovered about Jesus on your journey of faith?

Bible notes

The two travelling companions (husband and wife, perhaps – they shared a house) are joined by a stranger. They assume he's a Passover pilgrim like them, and his questions draw out their story. What he hears is saturated with sorrow, dashed hopes and confusion. They'd hardly had time to get used to the execution of their beloved prophet before some women disciples said they'd found his tomb disturbed, and then were told by angels that he'd been raised from the dead. How were the companions to make sense of these contradictory stories of death and resurrection, to say nothing of their own jumbled thoughts and feelings?

When the stranger speaks, his words are sparing yet sharply focused. He uncovers a pattern in their Scriptures that reveals the divine way of suffering and glory to match the experience of Israel's messiah. Might this reframe the travellers' experiences? If verse 25 seems too harsh for grieving disciples, remember that Luke sees it addressed to his readers too, who must continue to make sense of the shameful crucifixion of Jesus in their world. But how?

The stranger's words make an impression, but their impact is only felt at the meal in the couple's home. Unusually, it is the guest who says grace before breaking and sharing the bread. But this is enough for the two to recognise him before he disappears from sight (v.31). His initiatives – asking questions that allow them to tell their story, opening up the deeper meaning of Scripture, using familiar words and actions at the meal – are like joining the dots of a picture that gradually reveals the new reality of resurrection. Luke's readers, then and now, discover that same reality by making those same connections.

First impressions

- What do you think is the story behind this image?
- How does the Emmaus Road story reveal more about Easter?
- For the Emmaus Road disciples, it was Scripture and breaking bread; what helps you join the dots?



A prayer for all ages together

Lord Jesus, sometimes we have so much going on in our heads that we just don't understand what is going on. Help us to sort things out and join some of the dots. Show us the parts of the picture we can understand. And, while we work alone and with others, to see and understand more of the picture. Be with us, always. Amen.



Create two foot shapes by drawing round your feet/shoes onto paper and cutting them out. On one foot shape, write or sketch something great that someone you know is doing in the name of Jesus – for the church, for the community or for the world. On the other, write or sketch something that you would like to do. Place the footprints near to where you keep your shoes as a reminder of the journey of the travellers, who gradually realised that it was Jesus who was helping them.