

# Good News First

2025-04-21 • PASTOR MATT ROSE



Luke 24:13-35

## FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

### WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Two disciples walked the road to Emmaus with all the facts: the empty tomb, the angels, the report that Jesus was alive. And they still led with the loss. Pastor Matt's point is that human attention defaults to bad news, and that habit distorts everything: a marriage, a family, even a church. Easter flips the order. The body is not there. The good news goes first, and nothing has to stay stuck.

## To get started

- What is a piece of good news you got recently and forgot to actually enjoy?

## Looking back at the message

The re-ordering exercise is the memorable bit. Do it aloud if the group is willing.

- 1 The two disciples had the empty tomb in their story and still put it last. Why do we do that?
- 2 Pastor Matt listed the good things people stop counting in a marriage while cataloguing the bad. Which of those hit home?
- 3 Pastor Matt admitted the church itself has sometimes led with bad news, condemnation before hope. Where have you run into that? OPTIONAL

## Looking at the passage

Read Luke 24:13-27 aloud. Notice how they summarise events.

- 4 Read Luke 24:19-24. List what the two disciples report, in order. What comes last?
- 5 Verse 21 begins: we had hoped. What is packed inside that phrase?
- 6 In verses 25-27, what does Jesus do instead of just telling them who he is?
- 7 Reorder their report so the empty tomb comes first. How different does it sound?

## Bringing it home

---

This is practical rather than sentimental. Keep it out of forced positivity.

- 8 When someone asks how you are doing, what do you usually lead with, and why?
- 9 Where has focusing on the bad genuinely warped how you see a situation?
- 10 How is good news first different from pretending everything is fine?
- 11 What good news about your life have you stopped counting? OPTIONAL

## The group together

---

Groups can become complaint chambers. Ask directly.

- 12 Does this group tend to lead with good news or bad news? What is the evidence?
- 13 How can we be honest about hard things without making them the headline?
- 14 What good news could this group name about each other right now?

### BEFORE YOU FINISH

What would you put first tomorrow morning if you deliberately started with the good news?

## You might pray about

---

- For eyes that notice what is actually there
- For those in a genuinely hard stretch who need more than positivity
- For gratitude that is specific
- For the empty tomb to be the first thing rather than the last