

Moments of revelation

Notes on the Bible readings

- The gift of story is significant in the way the Scriptures have been written and shared. They began as a faithful retelling of stories from generation to generation: around a fire, walking along the road, and then written down for us to hold onto today.

- Jesus begins to reframe the experience of the two disciples on the road by explaining God's story, told through the Scriptures. It is as if this unknown teacher takes their isolated beads of knowledge and re-strings them into a different sequence, revealing a new pattern: God's story.

- We see within Scripture the imperative and the power of sharing God's story. As Jesus walked along the road, the disciples did not realise who he was until Jesus recited his own words, and their eyes were opened. There is power in God's Word and the faithful proclamation of it, as in the Acts passage, where 3,000 came to believe, as God's Word and his story were faithfully shared.

- The reality of the resurrection is the greatest story we can tell, and one which will change lives: who might we share this story with?

Coffee time

At a time of day when, under different circumstances, you might have joined others for tea or coffee (e.g. at home, after church, or in a cafe), arrange a virtual tea/coffee meet-up using social media. (If you don't know how to do this, ask someone to help!)

Share stories about yourselves (e.g. where you grew up, how you first came to live where you do, how you came to church, when you first called yourself a Christian). Take time to really listen to one another.

Questions for reflection

- ▶ When have you gathered round a fire (or similar) to tell/listen to stories?
- ▶ If you were to tell your own story, where would you begin? Where is Jesus in your story?



A prayer of thanksgiving

*Father, we thank you that you meet us where we are.
We thank you that you walk the road with us,
that you treat us as an equal even when we fail to recognise you.
You always love us, you always care for us,
you always want to eat and drink with us – such is your love.
Thank you, Lord, that you are not a stranger, but our friend.
Amen.*

A prayer for others

*Living Lord, we bring to you the needs of the world.
We pray for those who consider themselves to be strangers and outcasts. Help us always to welcome the stranger, whatever the cost, not sitting comfortably and ignoring people who we think don't fit in, not taking the easy way.*

*We pray for countries where food and medical supplies are in short supply. May we live sustainably and sensibly, so there is enough to feed the whole planet.
Help us not to be selfish, but always to consider others.
Lord, we long for the day when all in society will be equal.*

We pray for those who are lonely and have no one to eat with them. May we learn from our current time of isolation just how that feels. When we are able to do so again, may we open our doors to our neighbours, so that love and friendship can flourish, and all can enjoy the feast. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

A personal prayer

*Risen Christ, friend, companion, healer:
as I walk the road in front of me
be by my side and never leave. Amen.*

Live your faith

Look for the chance to spend time - e.g. by phone or video link - with someone who may feel alone at this time. Pray for an opportunity to share a story of what Jesus has done for you.