

BIBLE STORY 4/26/2020

This month, we celebrated Easter—the fact that Jesus died and rose again to be our Savior. When He did that, Jesus showed us the ultimate example of humility. On top of that, He proved that He really is God’s Son!

Just after Jesus came back to life, two of His followers were walking to a village called Emmaus. This was a long trip for them—about seven miles.

These two men were talking and walking. They were trying to make sense of everything that had just happened— how Jesus had gone from being followed around by crowds and celebrated in the streets of Jerusalem, to being arrested, beaten and killed. It was all so hard to believe. And now, people were saying He was ALIVE? Could this be true?

The men were attempting to understand it all while they walked along the road to Emmaus when suddenly, Jesus Himself came up and walked alongside them! But God kept them from recognizing who Jesus was.

This ‘stranger’ asked them what they were talking about. This stopped the men in their tracks.

One of them, named Cleopas asked this:

Open the Bible to Luke 24:18 (NirV) and read.

“Are you the only person visiting Jerusalem who doesn’t know? Don’t you know about the things that have happened there in the last few days? “

Jesus continued to pretend that He didn’t know what they were talking about, so the men went on to tell Him everything that had happened. Of course, the funny part is that they were telling Jesus . . . about Jesus!

Open the Bible to Luke 24:19-24 (NirV).

“He was a prophet. He was powerful in what he said and did in the sight of God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed Jesus over to be sentenced to death. They nailed him to a cross. But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to set Israel free. Also, it is the third day since all this happened. Some of our women amazed us too. Early this morning they went to the tomb. But they didn’t find his body. So they came and told us what they had seen. They saw angels, who said Jesus was alive. Then some of our friends went to the tomb. They saw it was empty, just as the women had said. They didn’t see Jesus’ body there.”

These two men didn't know what to think. An empty tomb?

Jesus reminded them of something important: everything that had happened to Him was actually part of God's Big Story.

These were things that the prophets had said would happen to the Messiah, and now they were coming true!

Jesus went on to remind them of the Scriptures they must have heard since they were children—words written thousands of years before that told how Jesus would be born, suffer, and die.

The men listened intently as they continued to walk to Emmaus with this man who they didn't realize was Jesus.

Finally they arrived at the village. The men asked Jesus to stay for a meal, and He agreed. They sat down to eat. Jesus took bread and thanked God for it. He broke it and started to give it to the men. Then God opened their eyes, and they recognized Him. It was JESUS!

Then—suddenly—Jesus disappeared from their sight. The men realized there had been something special about this man all along.

They said to each other:

Open the Bible to Luke 24:32 (NIrV) and read.

“He explained to us what the Scriptures meant. Weren't we excited as he talked with us on the road?”

They knew what they had to do next. They had to tell everyone!

The two men raced all the way back to Jerusalem and told the disciples what had happened. When they got back to Jerusalem, they found their friends. They told Jesus' followers that they had actually SEEN Jesus.

It was true: Jesus was alive! They were all amazed to discover how much bigger God's Story was than they'd expected.

God's plan is bigger than we can imagine. That's good for us to remember, too.

In fact: There's always more to discover about God's plan.

Let's tell God how excited we are to discover more about Him and His plan

PRAYER

Dear God,

We are so thankful for Your Big Story. You've had a plan from the very beginning. You have a good plan for our lives, too. We are so glad that You sent Jesus so we could have a relationship with You that lasts forever. The more we get to know You, we find that there's always more to learn about You. Help us to trust You as we discover more and more about what You've got planned.

We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name,

AMEN

It's so good to know that we can trust God. In fact, trusting God is really what humility is all about. Because sometimes humility means admitting that you DON'T know everything and that you have to trust the One who has the plan.

God's plan for humankind was always good. People messed it up when sin entered the world. But God had a plan for that, too. He sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus paid the price for our sin when He died on the cross. Then He came BACK to life and proved once and for all that He really is God's Son.

When we put our trust in Jesus as our Savior, we get to be a part of God's Big Story. We can have a relationship with Him and know that He's always with us, and we can grow in that relationship every day!

God can help YOU understand things about Him, too. There's always more to discover about God's plan. You're never done learning, especially when it comes to God and His Big Story. We need to be willing to learn about lots of things—at school, in our activities, and just about life in general. But the most important thing we need to keep learning about is God and His plan. After all, the more you discover about God, the more you can make the wise choice and live out His plan for your life.