

EVANGELICAL

Outline Two



WELCOME

If you were writing a psalm this week, what would the opening line be?



WORSHIP

Praise Readings

Requires preparation: references written on slips of paper, stirring background music such as 'Also sprach Zarathustra' by Richard Strauss or the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah. (You can locate the music on the Internet if you don't have a copy yourself.)

Write out the following Bible references on slips of paper and distribute them randomly among the members of your group.

- Psalm 93: 1-2
- Psalm 95: 1-5
- Psalm 96: 1-6
- Psalm 96: 7-9
- Psalm 97: 1-6
- Psalm 98: 1-3
- Psalm 99: 1-3

Look up the references and read them aloud. You may like to read them over the music.



WORD

Read the story in Luke 24:13-35

A number of things happen in this story as these two disciples walk away from a very challenging situation where their dreams and hopes have been shattered. The Jesus they thought was going to overthrow the Romans has been killed and the three years they have invested in following him have come to nothing. This sort of scenario is familiar to many of us as we experience disappointment and disillusionment in our lives. So, what can we learn here? The first and obvious point is that the risen Jesus is with them although they don't recognise him at first. He is the one who in a way debriefs them about what has happened. In doing this he gives them a new perspective and helps them re-interpret what has gone on. He also restores their hope and they return to Jerusalem to tell others that they have encountered him and he is alive.

At this point, you may want to play or read out the lyrics to Graham Kendrick's telling of this story in his song Comforting Stranger.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GYGARA4f1ZU>

Question

Where do you need help to see things differently?

Pray in the Word

What most resonates with you in this story? Spend a few moments sharing these points. Often people who are searching for God are looking for authenticity from those of us who have faith. How able are we to share our doubts and fears as well as our successes amongst ourselves as well as with those who are searching for God?



WITNESS

Consider your plans

Discuss your project in your group. How are you going through your planning, pray for your project and see if you can put together a timeline to find a date to begin. The type of questions around this might be: availability of premises, best time of year, avoiding other events, leading up to an Alpha course etc.

