

April 5, 2026

SERMON: The Way of the Life
SPEAKER: Pastor Steve
CORE SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:13-35 **WATCH SERMON** | **SERMON NOTES**

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUMMARY

In this Easter sermon, Pastor Steve walks us through the story of two disciples on the road to Emmaus who encounter the risen Jesus without recognizing him. Through four movements—Jesus draws near, Jesus reframes the Story, Jesus is revealed at the table, and the disciples return to bear witness—we see that resurrection is a living encounter with Christ. Jesus meets us in our confusion, grief, and ordinary moments, opening our eyes to God's new creation where death and despair no longer have the final word. The Way of Life is about personally encountering and following the risen Jesus, recognizing his presence with us, and becoming his witnesses—bringing reconciliation, hope, and life wherever we go.

SHARE

When have you had the experience of not recognizing someone you knew—maybe they changed their appearance, or you saw them in an unexpected place? How did it feel when you finally realized who they were?

READ

Luke 24:13-35 (Read together out loud as a group).

DISCUSS

Feel free to pick/choose what is most helpful for you. Remember, the goal is to have rich, relational, authentic, Jesus-centered discussions.

1. What stood out to you the most about the sermon?

2. In Luke 24:25-27, Jesus says the two disciples were "slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken" and then explains "what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." What does this passage teach us about how we should read the Old Testament? How does Jesus function as the "key" that unlocks the whole biblical story?

3. The two disciples said, "But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel"

(v. 21). Their category for redemption was too small—they expected political victory, not suffering. How does Jesus' suffering and resurrection reframe what redemption actually means? In what ways might our own expectations of what God should do be too small?

4. Pastor Steve pointed out that the disciples didn't recognize Jesus at first, even though he was walking right beside them. What does it tell us about the nature of Jesus' resurrection body and the nature of the new creation we will one day share in?

5. Pastor Steve emphasized that Jesus was revealed to the disciples at the table—in the ordinary rhythms of hospitality, community, and shared meals. Where have you experienced or witnessed Jesus being revealed in the everyday moments of life? How can we, as a group and as individuals, create more "table space" where others can encounter the risen Christ?

6. After recognizing Jesus, the two disciples immediately returned to Jerusalem to bear witness (v. 33-35). Pastor Steve connected this to Cornerstone's Guiding Priorities: deeper discipleship, building bridges, joining God in our neighbourhood, and becoming a hub of belonging. Which of these priorities is the Spirit stirring in your heart right now? How might you take a concrete step into one of them this week?

7. In the baptism portion of the service, people publicly declared their faith and commitment to follow Jesus. What does it mean to you personally that in baptism we are "plunged into Jesus' death and resurrection, dying to the old and rising to new life in him" (Romans 6:3-5)? Share your Baptism story if appropriate

NEXT STEPS:

- **Make room at your table:** Invite a neighbour, coworker, or friend into your home for a meal this month. Create space for authentic conversation and the possibility of encountering Jesus together or consider being a **Host Group**.
- **Engage with Scripture:** Commit to reading through one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John) with the "key" of Jesus in hand—looking for how each passage points to him and his kingdom.
- **Share your story:** Like the two disciples who returned to bear witness, be ready to share with someone this week how Jesus has met you in your confusion, grief, or ordinary moments.

PRAY:

Take time to pray together as a group:

- **Thanksgiving:** Thank Jesus for drawing near to us, even in our moments of confusion, doubt, and disappointment.
- **Eyes to see:** Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes to recognize Jesus' presence in the everyday moments of your life—at your table, in your neighbourhood, at work, and in your relationships.
- **Boldness to witness:** Pray for courage and compassion to bear witness to the risen Christ—in both word and deed—wherever God has placed you.
- **For one another:** Share specific prayer requests related to your "but we had hoped" moments, and pray for God's resurrection power to reframe your stories with hope.

CONNECT TO THE BODY:
Stay connected with what's happening at Cornerstone! Check out **The Hub** for upcoming workshops, community events, and opportunities to join God in our neighbourhood.

Group Life Ministry Fair is happening next Sunday, Apr 12, 2026 in the cafe after service, make sure you come, say Hi, and check out the workshops.

CLOSING:
As you leave tonight, remember: the risen Christ goes with you on every road you travel. May he meet you in your confusion, your grief, and the ordinary moments of life. May he open your eyes to God's new creation and set your hearts ablaze with his presence. And may you go from here as witnesses of his resurrection—sharing hope, reconciliation, and life wherever you go. Amen.