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ST. LUCAS UCC

*Transforming lives
as the hands and feet of Christ*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

April 14-15

“Hope on the Road”

By Rev. Eric Moeller

What Is This?

This brief guide is intended for use individually, or in small groups. It's your chance to dive deeper into the issues raised in the weekend sermon and to connect a Biblical story with your daily life.

Revisit the Text

Luke 24: 13-35; <https://bit.ly/2ETe0nO>

Big Ideas Raised

- Christ, in the form of a stranger, enters into conversation with the disciples who are in a state of bewildered grief and begins accompanying them on their journey. Something similar happens in Raymond Carver's *Small Good Thing* when the baker sits with grieving parents, hearing their story of bewildered grief. Both instances reveal the healing power of sharing our stories and lives with one another.
- Such accompaniment brings the love and presence of God into the world, even if it's only glimpsed for a moment.
- Both stories also highlight the sharing of a meal; the breaking of bread. Christ's breaking of the bread in the Luke text is the big reveal; the moment they recognize him. We too have our identity in the breaking of the bread as we gather and break bread together to remember we are part of the Body of Christ acting as the hands and feet of Christ for one another and the strangers we encounter.
- We may also come to recognize the love of God in strangers when we open ourselves to receive the gifts they offer us. This is hospitality in its fullness; it is reciprocal both giving and receiving. Whether we share our gifts and receive the gifts of beloved family and friends we've known a long time, or whether we share our gifts with, and receive the gifts of, strangers these acts of hospitality grounded in love bring the presence of God into our midst; they set our hearts aflame; they bring hope, healing, wholeness, a sense of accompaniment and community, and good things that keep us moving forward.

Questions Meant to Dig Deeper

- Pastor Eric describes the disciples and parents from the Carver story as being in a state of bewildered grief that is both sorrow and utter confusion. Have you ever experienced that kind of grief? If so, what got you through it?
- Was there ever a time where you accompanied others through such a state of grief or loss? Share that story if appropriate.
- Why is it that Jesus is unrecognizable to the disciples on the road? What reason could there be for the disciples to be kept from recognizing him?
- Others experience the love of God through our loving acts of hospitality, and we come to recognize the living Christ in others when we receive their gifts of hospitality. Have you ever come to recognize the living Christ or experience the love of God in a stranger, or an unexpected place? Describe that experience.

Revisit the Sermon

For a recording or a manuscript of this weekend's sermon, please visit: <https://www.stlucasucc.org/sermons-resources>