



# CONNECT GROUP NOTES

## Sunday 09.04.2023

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“He is risen”

### **Preacher**

Ps. Nathan Bean

### **Scripture**

“They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together 34 and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38 He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.”

Luke 24:33-43



## **Thought**

Jesus appears in the midst of the disciples, and greets them with the words "Peace be with you". It's a reminder that they were, at the time, full of anxiety and fear. Huddled together in a locked room, possibly the very same room where they had gathered for the last supper just nights before - yet they were full of fear and uncertainty as to what the future would bring.

"Touch me and see", Jesus says to the disciples who were full of doubt. This is another reassuring reminder that we are not alone in our doubts - that even those who were closest to Jesus had doubts. Christ knows our doubts, He's not surprised or worried about them, rather His simple invitation is to step closer to Him. As we do, the joy and amazement of Christ begins, ever so gently, to rise in our hearts.

He then sits among the disciples and eats. It's a symbol of relationship, of restoration and connection. He eats with them - He extends relationship to them in the midst of doubt, in the midst of disbelief and confusion. He doesn't wait for the absence of our fear and doubt before He offers connection, restoration and relationship.

We may ask ourselves why Jesus still bore the scars from the cross. Why, in His resurrected body, did He not rid all imperfection? Maybe Christ is reminding us of a deeper truth; That in a world where we so often wish our hardships away, where we pray to be protected from discomfort, that God Himself would bear scars.

It's often through the hardest times that Christ brings his greatest redemptive plan. His scars are a reminder that Christ takes the bad things, the hard things, the damaging things and makes them beautiful. He walks with us in the shadows.

So today, may we bring our doubts and sit with Jesus and eat with Him, allowing the spark of joy that rises up within us to drive us towards the risen Christ. To sup with Him. To sit in silent wonder. To revel in the beauty of His grace.

To see His scars and understand that He knows our deepest hurts and He offers life from the areas of our world where there is brokenness. He sees us,



He knows us, He has walked the journey of suffering and loss and He has conquered all. Hell, death and the grave were defeated and now fear fades away and is replaced with joy as we sit in His presence. He will ultimately bring resurrection in every area of our lives, both now and in eternity.

Just as the disciples were changed from fearful to bold, so may we be, as we encounter the resurrected Jesus. New hope, new joy, new life bursting forth on the precipice of a new day.

### **Discussion Points**

1. What do you think it means to be able to step into a relationship with Jesus even while we still have doubts?
2. What do you think was the significance of Jesus eating with the disciples? What other examples can you think of where Jesus ate with people, and what did this mean then?
3. What do you think truly motivated the disciples to become bold, unafraid and to return to Jerusalem after this encounter with Jesus? How does this apply to us, now?

### **Personal application + Prayer**

Lord Jesus,

Thank you that you are alive and active in the world and in my life, and that you invite me into your story despite my humanity, frailty and doubts. Help me to truly see you, to know your very real presence in my life, and to understand the depth of relationship that you are calling me into.

May you take my hurts, my failings, my scars and my story and make it into a triumph of Your grace, love and redemption as I continually encounter Your love and share it with the world.

Amen