



Bible Study

Reflections on the Journey

Introduction

From the beginning, the deep listening process of the Strategic Planning Working Group (SPWG) has been rooted in scripture. Every listening group session began with Bible study.

In that same spirit, you will notice the prominence of scripture in the Transformational Aspirations video series being released over Fall 2022 and Winter 2023 on anglican.ca/changingchurch.

Each video has an accompanying Bible study for use in dioceses, parishes, and other Anglican contexts across the country.

We encourage repeated reading of the scripture passage out loud as you consider each question in turn. We also encourage open sharing, uncritical listening, and welcoming acceptance of each participant's contributions.

This first Bible study accompanies the introductory video about the process that led to the Aspirations. The familiar Gospel story of the Journey to Emmaus was a touchstone for the SPWG and its listening groups during the difficult days of March 2020 and thereafter. We commend it for your reflection again now.

A new Bible study will be made available each month on anglican.ca/changingchurch, alongside the release of each video in the Transformational Aspirations series.



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The Journey to Emmaus: Luke 24.13-21, 25-27, 30-31 (NRSV)

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ... Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ... When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

Questions for reflection and discussion

1. Where did you encounter the risen Christ and hope in the midst of all the confusion and disruption of the past few years?
2. What is emerging now as the hopes and priorities for ministry in your part of the church? How is the Spirit speaking to you?
3. What is needed to help you focus and act on these hopes and priorities?
4. Could these Aspirations help you in this discernment?

We want to hear from you! Please send your individual and collective thoughts and reflections on the Five Transformational Aspirations to changingchurch@national.anglican.ca



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