

The Disciples on the Road to Emmaus: Discussion Questions Answer Key

1. The disciples of Jesus on the road to Emmaus are saddened by the events of Christ's Passion and death and are struggling to understand its implications. They feel abandoned by the loss of Jesus' physical presence in the world, and they seem to have lost faith in Jesus' role as Savior.
2. The disciples' inability to recognize Jesus when he begins walking with them is significant because it demonstrates that Jesus is different after his Resurrection. He no longer comes to the disciples in the appearance they are familiar with, just as he appears to us differently in the form of bread and wine in the Eucharist.
3. Jesus helps the disciples to remember all that he had taught them by interpreting the passages related to the Messiah in the Scriptures. During the Mass, before we celebrate the Eucharist, we listen to Scripture readings and hear the celebrant explain the readings' connection to Jesus, just as Jesus did for the disciples.
4. The nature of the journey of the Emmaus disciples is one through doubt and loss of faith toward truth and strengthened faith. Like catechumens, the presence of Jesus and his interpretation of Scripture helps the disciples to prepare for their union with Christ. This union is manifest in the supper they share with Jesus that night—the breaking of the bread.
5. The disciples confess their anxieties to Jesus and invite him into their home. These actions and words help the disciples experience the Risen Christ because they encourage the growth of a relationship with Christ. The breaking of bread with Christ is a significant moment of grace because it shows the communion of the disciples and Christ in the Eucharist.
6. This action of Jesus would have been familiar to the disciples. They might have experienced something like this during the traditional Passover blessing of the bread and cup.
7. After recognizing Jesus and “taking him in” in the Eucharistic Bread, the disciples are compelled to return to Jerusalem and join those proclaiming the Resurrection. They are also compelled to share the story of the appearance of Jesus with the Apostles and other disciples.
8. Jesus took the initiative in moving the disciples toward an experience of the Risen Christ when he interpreted Scripture and broke bread for the disciples.
9. When Jesus “disappears,” he resumes his position in Heaven, at the right hand of God. This correlates to the celebration of the Eucharist because the sacrament reveals that Christ did not abandon us after his Resurrection. He stays with us in the Eucharist, just as he stayed with the disciples in Emmaus.
10. *Answers will vary.*

