

*Were Not Our Hearts Burning Within Us*  
*Lectio/Visio Divina*

What strikes you about this text? Underline specific words or phrases.

Who is this God in this story?

Why would someone tell this story today?

What does this story remind you of?

<b>Biblical Text</b>	<b>Luke 24:13 - 35</b>	<b>Your Reflections</b>
<p><sup>13</sup>Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.</p> <p><sup>17</sup>And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad.</p> <p><sup>18</sup>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?"</p> <p><sup>19</sup>He asked them, "What things?"</p> <p>They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>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.</p> <p><sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.</p> <p><sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women</p>		

<b>Biblical Text</b> <b>Luke 24:13 - 35</b>	<b>Your Reflections</b>
<p>had said; but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.</p>	

### *Shared reading of the text*

Ask the participants to read the selected passage using a shared, slow and reflective reading method. You might wish to explain the process in the following manner: "We are going to read the text together as a group. I will begin by reading a line or two and then stopping where I feel appropriate. When someone else is ready, he or she reads the next line. Feel free to repeat lines, words or phrases that strike you or you feel the need to emphasize. Please do not repeat words or phrases out of context or order. We will continue this way until the passage has ended. Do not worry about long silences; rather be conscious of the silences. Allow the silences to fill you with the words. We need the spaces between the words to help us build creativity and understanding."

### *Silent reflection*

Ask the participants to reflect silently on the text they have just read. You might use one or more of these questions, but after reading them, allow the silence to persist.

What strikes you about this text? Underline specific words or phrases that stand out.  
Who is this God in this story?  
Why would someone tell this story today?  
What does this story remind you of?

### *Small group sharing*

Select one or two of your reflections and share them in small groups.

### *Refocusing small groups on large group discussion*

Have each group reduce their discussion down to three words. Share the words with the group as a whole.

### *Imagining*

Being thinking about how you would show this story. *What do you see in this story?* (simply keep repeating this question throughout the discussion, allow the participants to do most or all of the sharing)

If participants begin to use loaded words or images, ask them to unpack the words or images to get at a deeper meaning. "Would you unpack that? Tell us what you specifically see that makes you say "..."

Another follow-up question is to ask participants to identify what from the text *shows* you the idea.

### *Exegetical information*

Share some exegetical background or other information (this will ground the exercise in knowing beyond simply the group gathered at that time).

### *Creative response and sharing*

Ask participants to sketch out an image, or work with words in a creative way (poem, etc.) in response to the text.