

Group Discussion Questions

Week 1



Can You See Him? Week 1

- Describe a time when a situation in your life turn out completely different than what you expected.

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him.

Luke 24:13-15 (NIV)

- What are some things that distract us from seeing Christ at times in our everyday lives? How can we get past these distractions?

He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.

Luke 24:17-21 (NIV)

- Sometimes it is easier to see God's work as you reflect back over your life. Looking back, describe a time when it was difficult for you to see God working in your life. Do you see that time in your life differently now?
- How do trials in your life sometimes change your relationship with Christ?

In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

Luke 24:22-24 (NIV)

- Why is it sometimes so difficult for us to see God when we face the harsh realities of life?

So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.

Luke 24:29b-31 (NIV)

- In what ways has God clearly spoken to you? What was the last thing He has told you?

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations..."

Luke 24:45-47 (NIV)

- The two men's eyes were opened to see Jesus with them. Describe a time when you had your "eyes opened" or a spiritual awakening. How did God give you "eyes to see" something you missed before.

Final thought: Some in your group may be in the middle of a painful season where it is difficult to see God at work. Take time to pray for each other and ask God to give you eyes to see His hand in your lives.

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For Further Study

To use this resource, simply select one or two questions from each category below that you think will help your group discussion. Alternatively, you can use these questions and Scriptures in your own personal devotions during the week.

Open

- How do you respond when someone tells you good could come from the trials and tribulations you face?

Explore

Read James 1:1-18

- What attitude did James tell people to exhibit when they are facing trials? (1:2)
- What is produced when our faith is tested? (1:3-4)
- What is God's response when we ask for wisdom? (1:5)
- What effect does doubt have on a person when he or she prays? (1:6-8)
- What reward awaits the person who perseveres under trial? (1:12)
- From where does temptation come? (1:13-15)
- How does sin start and end? (1:13-15)

- From where do all good and perfect gifts come? (1:16-17)
- How did James describe God's relationship with the people He created? (1:17-18)

Reflect

- What are some of the trials and difficulties you have experienced during your life?
- What is one good thing to ever come out of a difficult situation in your life?
- How does a person's relationship with God change as he or she goes through trials and problems?
- When do you find it hardest to pray?
- With what doubts have you struggled concerning God and prayer?
- How can doubting affect a person's conversations with God?

Apply

- What do you believe God is trying to teach you this week through the trials and situations you may be currently experiencing?

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Can You See Him?—Week 1

Can You See Him

One way for people to see God is through other believers. This week consider becoming the hands and feet of Christ to someone you know that is struggling. Take time to do something that would be a blessing, encouragement or help to someone you know. Your kindness will reflect God's kindness to those who may be distracted by the realities of life. Be prepared to come back next and share your experience and how that impacted the life of another. This is something you can do by yourself or with your group. Here are some ideas you might want to consider.

- Buy groceries or help meet the financial needs of someone who just lost their job.
- Offer comfort to someone who may have lost a loved one by sending them a gift, flowers or a card or email of encouragement.
- Offer to help with housework or run errands for someone who maybe in the middle of an illness.
- Go and visit anyone you may know who is in the hospital.
- Go and work at a local charity this week.

Here are some suggestions you may want to use for your time with God this week:

Day 1: Read Luke 24:13-15. Confess to God those things that are distracting you from truly seeing Him in your life. Ask for God's help in removing these distractions.

Day 2: Read Luke 24:17-21. Praise God for what has revealed to you through the various trials you have faced in your life.

Day 3: Read Luke 24:22-24. Pray about the trials you are currently going through. Ask for God to reveal Himself to you during this time and help you through these difficult times.

Day 4: Read Luke 24:29-47. Pray and ask God to speak into your life. Listen for His answer.

Day 5: Read James 1:1-18. Pray for those you know who are currently facing hard times. Ask for God to not only help them during this time, but to make his presence felt in a very real way.