



Surprised by Hope

Ice Breakers:

In what ways has your life turned out differently than you expected? How have you coped with disappointments?

Share a time when you experienced futility and almost gave up, but at the last moment hope broke through for you.

Questions:

Read Luke 24:1-12

- **What were the angels trying to tell the women?**
- **Why did the other disciples not believe the women?**

Read Luke 24:13-18

- **What do you think they were debating (disputing) as they walked along?**
- **Why might Jesus have first kept His identity hidden from the couple on the road to Emmaus?**

Read Luke 24:19-24

- **Where had they (or their teachers) gone wrong in their understanding of the Messiah's role?**

Read Luke 24:25-35

- **How does Jesus correct their misperceptions?**
- **Why was suffering always part of God's plan for the Messiah?**
- **What were their responses to Jesus revealing His identity?**

Application:

How can we allow God to write us another (better) story, if the story we have chosen for ourselves has not worked out?

How can we retain hope in a world with so much suffering? What is the hope that Jesus offers?

How can we offer hope to others who don't yet know Jesus?