

Connect Group notes 31 March 2024

Jo completed her Easter reflections series on Sunday.

Luke 24: 13-35

We considered the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and the hopelessness and despair they felt after Jesus' execution.

They were in a liminal space – a place of transition, on the threshold of the greatest event of all time, the resurrection – though they did not realise this..

Jesus joined them incognito, and listened as they struggled, showing us how we as His body can walk through these liminal spaces personally, and also in support of each other -

1. The disciples were in a liminal space, a place of transition or on the threshold of something (though they did not realise it)
Ruth Haley Barton describes these spaces as “(where) you have left the tried and true (or it has left you), and you have not yet been able to replace it with something else”
 - Thinking about our own lives, how have we managed liminal spaces when all our hopes were dashed and we could not see how things were going to turn out?
 - How do liminal spaces impact our faith? Positively or negatively?
2. Why is walking in community important in liminal spaces? How can we do this in our small groups?
3. Jesus came alongside the disciples and was present, he allowed them to talk, before reminding them of the scriptures about himself,

- Why do we feel as though we have to have answers for people during difficult times?
- How can we emulate Jesus when we walk alongside others who have questions?

"The first service one owes to others in the fellowship consists in listening to them...It is God's love to us that He not only gives us His Word but also lends us His ear...Christians so often think they must always contribute something when they are in the company of others, that this is the one service they have to render. They forget that listening can be a greater service than speaking." Dietrich Bonhoeffer

4. Are there areas in our lives where Jesus has come and we don't recognize His presence? How can we posture ourselves to be more aware of His presence with us, particularly in difficult times?