

# COURAGE

## LESSON 14 - "A LIVING HOPE"

APRIL 5, 2026

### WORSHIP (15 MINS)

**Venue:** Home gatherings

Sing one or two songs or play a song from You Tube.

**Venue:** Public place (school, café, park, etc.) or **Via Online,**

Testimonies: **"What is your "high" or "your "low" this past week?"**

**Ask someone to do the opening prayer.**

### WELCOME (10 MINS)

**Welcome guests/first-time visitors.**

**Ice-breaker:** Assuming you were alive during Jesus' time, if you were one of the women going to the tomb that Resurrection morning, what do you think you would have expected to find Jesus' body or an empty tomb?

### WORD(30-45 MINS)

**Main Text:** Luke 20:1-8 NIV

**Intro:** It was obvious after Jesus died, His disciples themselves didn't realize that He would rise again on the third day after He was crucified even though He had told them about this so many times. When the women went to the tomb, they were expecting to find Jesus still dead. So when His body wasn't there, they were surprised. Eventually, God helped them know and see the truth of Christ's resurrection. Instead of believing that He was alive, they brought spices to complete the anointing process.

Let's turn to God's Word and discover truths that will help us see, believe in, and follow a living Savior:

#### 1. Be open to the supernatural work of God – Read Luke 20: 4-6

The resurrection of Christ is not something natural or ordinary, in fact, it is a supernatural event. All God's work is supernatural by nature. God supernaturally rolled a two ton stone and sent two angels to first announce that Jesus has risen. Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 2:14 that people who think only in natural, human ways cannot understand the things of God. Spiritual truths—like the resurrection—can only be understood with spiritual eyes.

**Q:** Is there a situation right now where you need God to help you see things from His perspective rather than your perspective?

**Q:** If you really believe Jesus is alive and God still works in supernatural ways, what's one small step you can take this week to show that faith?

#### 2. Let God's Word bring enlighten to our hearts and minds – Read Luke 24:13-34 NLT

*v.31 Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared! 32 They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"*

The two disciples on the road to Emmaus were walking along when Jesus joined them. As they talked, they eventually realized that the one they were speaking with was the Lord and that He was truly alive. At first, they didn't believe the women who had told them about the empty tomb, the angels, and the message that Jesus had risen. Even the Scriptures, Jesus' own words before His crucifixion, and the reports they heard were not enough to convince them. But in His grace, the risen Christ met them, spoke with them, and opened their understanding.

**Q:** In what ways do we sometimes find ourselves doubting or struggling to believe what God has already said—whether through His Word, past experiences, or the testimony of others?

**Q:** Just like the disciples on the road to Emmaus who didn't realize Jesus was with them, in what area of your life do you struggle to recognize His presence?

**Q:** What situation in your life requires God to "open your understanding," and what step can you take to respond with faith instead of doubt?

The two disciples said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as He explained the Scriptures?" They quickly returned to Jerusalem, found the eleven disciples and others gathered, and heard them say, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter." vv. 32-34

#### Conclusion:

Just as the disciples' hearts burned when Jesus opened the Scriptures to them, in application, we must seriously approach reading the Bible as God's living Word, not just a historical book. The holy Scripture is meant to lead us to know Jesus personally so we can become more like Him.

As we are in these last days nearing close to Christ's second coming, even supernatural experiences must be tested and grounded in the Bible, or we risk being deceived. At the same time, studying Scripture only for knowledge, without seeking its power, leaves us empty and unfulfilled. The Word of God becomes alive and meaningful when it leads us to a revelation of who Christ Himself is.

#### Reflection questions:

**Q:** How can you approach reading the Bible this week with a deeper focus on getting to know Jesus personally and intimately not just learning facts or history? Can you give examples?

**Q:** In this age of deep fakes, AI, etc., in what practical ways can we be more discerning if "supernatural manifestations or stories" are based on Scripture, or just a deception of the enemy?

**Q:** How can you invite God today to reveal more of who Jesus is to you as you study the Bible, so it feels alive and meaningful to you?

Optional (as time permits):

**Q:** What is your personal definition of having a living hope in Christ?

### WORK(15 MINS)

#### Application

1. Find a partner. Ask what you can pray for him/her then pray for each other.

2. Pray and prepare a Hit List (max. of 5-10 names of family, relatives, friends, schoolmates, workmates, neighbors, etc.) of possible people you desire to invite in the next life group gathering.

What is your take-away from this lesson? Closing Prayer