

Engaging at the Level of Story

Scripture used: [Luke 24:13-20 NIV](#) ; [Luke 24:31-32 NIV](#)

OVERVIEW

This week, Pastor Hurmon kicks off the Jesus Way series with the first practice: Engaging at the Level of Story. In the story of Jesus on the road to Emmaus, we see that before He teaches them, corrects them, or reveals Himself, He asks questions and listens. Jesus shows us that love begins with presence, curiosity, and making space for people to be heard.

This year's theme is being a Jesus First church, doing life together the Jesus Way. The Jesus Way is how we practice agape love across our differences, beginning with the people closest to us. We don't just learn truth—we practice it in relationship and community. Small groups are one of the places where we live this out. Just as some things can only be experienced with another person, spiritual growth often happens as we walk with others, listen, share, and grow together.

KEY POINTS

1. Jesus Creates Space for Their Story

Jesus approaches them with curiosity instead of assumptions. He invites them to share what they have experienced and what they are carrying in their hearts. This reminds us that every person has a story worth hearing, and love makes room for people to be known.

2. Jesus Allows Them to Express Their Pain

The disciples were grieving the loss of their hopes and expectations. Jesus does not interrupt, dismiss, or minimize their sorrow. He shows us that healing often begins when people are given permission to honestly name their pain.

3. Jesus Allows Them to Express Their Disappointment

They said, *"But we had hoped..."* revealing the gap between what they expected and what had happened. Jesus lets them speak their unmet expectations out loud. In the same way, God is not threatened by our disappointment and invites us to bring it to Him honestly.

4. Jesus Allows Them to Name Their Confusion

The disciples were trying to make sense of conflicting reports and uncertain circumstances. Instead of correcting them immediately, Jesus lets them process their confusion. Sometimes clarity comes after we have space to wrestle with our questions in the presence of God.

Key Insight -Jesus listens to their story before revealing His identity. Sometimes transformation begins not with answers, but with being seen, heard, and understood.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - What is one story from your life—big or small—that still shapes the way you think, respond, or see the world today?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Read [Luke 24:13-35](#) (NIV) together. Jesus already knew the disciples' pain, disappointment, and confusion, yet He still chose to ask questions and listen before revealing Himself. What does this teach us about the character of God, the way He relates to people, and how transformation often happens in our lives?

- 3) **DO** - Listen to someone's story this week. Take time to ask someone new: **What part of your story has shaped you the most?** Then listen with curiosity, care, and without rushing to fix or respond. Join us next week for our next Jesus Way practice!