



IMMANUEL CHURCH

Conversation Starter: For Real
April 16, 2017

Opening Questions:

- Take a couple minutes to share about something in your life that stands as a reminder of an event and/or person from the past. What do you think about or feel when you see it?
- Do you agree that the cross can often be something of a monument for Christians? A reminder of the past but not practical or relevant in today's society? How often do you find yourself thinking of Jesus as a time gone by? Something that *happened...*

Looking at Scripture:

- Read **Luke 24:35-49...** What do you suppose the disciples were talking about after Jesus had died and been buried? What were they likely feeling? Do you think Christians ever feel that way today, even though we know there's more to the story? Why do you think that is?
- Jesus turns "remember when" into "look now" as he invites his followers to touch his physical body. What moments in your life have you felt were ones Jesus called you to "look now;" moments where he challenged your doubt...pulled you from the past into the vivid present?
- Jesus recounts Jewish history before he commissions his followers to the work of the church. His explanation brings clarity on who he is and what he's done. What part of your history has God regularly used to bring clarity to you and your current context?

Application Questions:

- The bottom line this week was: **WE HAVE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE BECAUSE JESUS DIDN'T STAY IN THE PAST.** Jesus isn't a memory or a monument...he's on the move! What does that mean for you? Does that encourage you? Scare you? Unsettle you?
- We don't have to live without hope for the future because Jesus is with us. What things have you scared these days? What do you worry about most? How do we move from fear to faith? To believing the best is yet to come, when so much is going wrong?
- We don't have to live stuck in our own past. What parts of your story have defined you but shouldn't any longer? What does it look like for you to walk away from that monument? To leave *it* in the past?
- We don't have to live numb in the now, being that Jesus is with us. What's a practical way for you to stay grateful for the past, but fully present in the now?

End your time together praying for each other's ability to actually live every day with Jesus. Pray God helps each person in the group to lean into the hope we have for tomorrow because Jesus isn't stuck in yesterday.