

# SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERINGS

## 2025 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

### LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3

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- Summer Friendship Gathering events last three evenings and each evening is divided into three parts: fellowship meal, worship time with a large group lesson, and small group discussion. On the last evening there is a closing worship service, which replaces the Large Group Bible Lesson and Small Group Discussion time.
- As you start preparing your lesson a good place to start is to pray asking the Holy Spirit to give you insight and direction.
- You will find an illustrated sample video for this Day 3 Bible Lesson “RISE UP and Live”, along with the other Summer Friendship Gathering training videos. You are encouraged to watch this video as you plan your lesson.
- The theme for this year’s Summer Friendship Gathering is “Rise Up.” Over these next three days we will be learning how God raised up His people to new life with just speaking His Word. God wants to raise us up to new life in Jesus when we hope, believe, and live for Him.

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# 2025 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

## LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

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- We will be learning about a prophet named Ezekiel and a vision God showed him. Do you remember what the vision was? It was a huge valley of dry bones. God told Ezekiel to prophesy to the bones.
- In the New Testament we will study the story of Jesus raising up Lazarus after he had been dead for four days!
- On the last day we will look at the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will journey with the two men who walked with Jesus after He rose from the dead on the road to the village of Emmaus. Jesus wants to walk with us on our road as we rise up and live for Him.
- Our Bible verse for this week is ***Ephesians 2:6***

***“God raised us up with Christ...That’s because we belong to Christ Jesus.”***

- On Day 1 we learned about a prophet named Ezekiel and a vision God showed him. Do you remember what the vision was? It was a huge valley of dry bones. God told Ezekiel to prophesy to the bones.
- When Ezekiel spoke God’s Words to the bones, God made the bones come alive again to make a huge army. God tells Ezekiel that He will do the same thing for His people. God loved His people and promised to give them hope again. God wanted their hearts to be alive again and not like dry bones.
- What did God want us to learn from this vision? God can raise us up from our deadness by giving us new life in Christ Jesus!

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## LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

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- Yesterday we studied a story in the New Testament. It is the story of Jesus raising up Lazarus after he had been dead for four days! Jesus wants us to know that He has that power because He is the resurrection and the life. We learned by believing in Jesus we can rise up, even when our faith is tested.
- Today we will celebrate the ultimate resurrection. Jesus is risen from the dead! The story of the resurrection of Jesus is full of hope and new life. But it didn't start out that way. Before Jesus could rise up, Jesus had to die.
- Several times Jesus told his disciple that he would die and be raised again on the third day. But they didn't understand.
- The Bible tells us in *1 Corinthians 15:3* "*Christ died for our sins, just as Scripture said he would.*"
- **Our Bible verse for today comes from Luke 24:34**  
**"It's true! The Lord has risen! ..."**
- It had been three days since Jesus had died and was buried. His disciples hide in an upper room. They were afraid the Jewish leaders would arrest them like they had Jesus. That morning, some of the women went to the tomb with spices to care for His body.
- Two of Jesus disciples left the group. They decided to make a seven-mile walk to a village called Emmaus. As they walked, they talked about everything that had happened.
- As they talked about those things, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them. But God kept them from recognizing him.

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### LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

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- *Jesus asked them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?”*
- *They stood still, and their faces were sad. “Are you the only person visiting Jerusalem who doesn’t know? Don’t you know about the things that have happened there in the last few days?”*
- *“What things?” Jesus asked.*
- *The men stopped and with sadness they said. “Jesus of Nazareth was a prophet. He was powerful in what he said and did in the sight of God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed Jesus over to be sentenced to death. They nailed him to a cross. But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to set Israel free.*
- *Also, it is the third day since all this happened. Some of our women amazed us too. Early this morning they went to the tomb. But they didn’t find his body. So, they came and told us what they had seen. They saw angels, who said Jesus was alive. Then some of our friends went to the tomb. They saw it was empty, just as the women had said. They didn’t see Jesus’ body there.”*
- **“Whew! That was a lot to tell Jesus.” Ask, what were some of the things the men told Jesus as they walked together?**
- The two disciples were sad about what happened to Jesus. But Jesus walked alongside them and patiently listened as they told them their sadness the last three days.
- Jesus walks with us when we are sad. No matter what we’re going through Jesus is there, patiently listening to us. We can tell Him anything and everything.

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### LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

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- When we talk to Jesus, or pray, Jesus listens to us. We can tell Him anything. *Psalm 62:8 says, “Trust in him at all times; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.” He’s a place we can hide.*
- But, Jesus didn’t want them to stay sad. He wanted to open their eyes so they could see He has risen.
- Jesus explained to them what the Bible said about the Messiah having to suffer and then be raised up again. Starting with Moses and the prophets, Jesus told them what was said about Himself in all the Scriptures.
- Jesus wanted them to believe. He showed these two men that God had a perfect plan from the very beginning. Everything happened just as it was supposed to according to the scriptures.
- *Isaiah 53:4 “He (Jesus) suffered the things we should have suffered. He took on himself the pain that should have been ours.”*
- When the men approached their village, they asked Jesus if He would stay with them because the day was almost over. So, He went with them.
- Jesus joined them at the table. He took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and began to give it to them. Then something amazing happened. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. But then he disappeared from their sight. The men said to each other, *“He explained to us what the Scriptures meant. Weren’t we excited as he talked with us on the road?”*
- Immediately their sadness was gone, and they were filled with joy and hope again! Their eyes were opened. Their Savior had risen! Jesus is alive!

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### LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

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- This would be a good place to talk about what it means that Jesus is alive. Can we see Him?
- The Bible tells us that Jesus rose again. He went up or (ascended) into heaven where He lives. We can't see Him, but we know He lives in our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Just like those disciples, our hearts can be excited with love for Jesus too. Sometimes we feel it when we read the Bible or listen to our Bible teachers. Or when we listen to praise and worship music.
- The Bible says in Romans 5:5 *God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*
- The two disciples shared how Jesus met them on the road. We can do the same thing. We can share when we met Jesus on our road. We can tell them what a difference He is making in our lives. Now that is amazing, wonderful, and spectacular good news!
- So, let's walk with Jesus every day. We can tell Him anything in prayer, trust Him for everything in our life, and tell others the good news that Jesus has risen. He is alive!

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# 2025 SUMMER FRIENDSHIP GATHERING

## LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

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- There are four key points to be made in this lesson. It is important that each of these points are covered in your lesson because they will be part of the discussion questions.

### **1. The first point is Jesus walks with us when we are sad. He patiently listens to us.**

The two disciples were sad about what happened to Jesus. But Jesus walked alongside them and patiently listened as they explained the last three days. Jesus walks with us when we are sad. No matter what we're going through Jesus is there, patiently listening to us. We can tell Him anything and everything. Psalm 62:8 says, *"Trust in him at all times; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge."* He's a place we can hide.

### **2. The second point is, all through the Bible God shows us that Jesus had to suffer and die and rise again.**

Jesus explained to the two men what the Bible said about the Messiah having to suffer and then be raised up again. Starting with Moses and the prophets, Jesus told them what was said about Himself in all the Scriptures. Jesus wanted them to believe. He showed these two men that God had a perfect plan from the very beginning. Everything happened just as it was supposed to according to the scriptures.

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### **LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED**

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**3. The third point to remember is, Jesus wants to walk with us and He wants us to walk with Him every day.**

We can walk with Jesus everyday like the disciples on the road. We can tell Him anything in prayer, trust Him for everything in our life, and thank Him for answers. We are walking with Jesus when we read the Bible, hang out with other Christians, and grow in our faith. Walking with Jesus is also helping others in need. Encourage others when they are down and praying with and for them. We can walk with Jesus by telling others the good news that Jesus has risen, He is alive! There are so many ways we can walk with Jesus.

**4. The last point is, when our eyes are opened to the risen Lord, we want to tell others that He is alive.**

The two men were so filled with joy that they hurried all the way back to Jerusalem to tell the rest of the disciples that Jesus was alive, they had seen Him with their own eyes. The men shared how Jesus met them on the road. We can do the same thing. We can share when we met Jesus and what a difference He is making in our lives. Now that is some amazing, wonderful, spectacular, good news?

- As you plan out the flow of your lesson, we highly encourage you to use the skit and object lesson. It is important to find more than one way to tell the story of how we can rise up and live for Jesus.

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### **LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED**

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- The Day 3 skit fits best after telling the story. After the skit would be a great opportunity to ask our friends if they would like to learn, like Sheila, how they can walk with Jesus every day.  
By believing that:
  - Jesus is the Son of God.
  - Jesus died for our sin and rose again.
  - We can thank Him for forgiving the bad things (sins) I've done.
  - Trust Him for everything in our life.
- The object lesson can be after the introduction or at the end, it's up to you. It is included in the Large Group Leader's Guide.
- Visuals and illustrations will help with learning. Most people learn best if the lesson combines these different modes of learning. Remember, you also have access to the PowerPoint slides of the story provided on our website. These should be used as the leader is telling the story.
- You should also review the Small Group Leader's Guide Booklet  
The Discussion Booklet has questions after the story. These discussion questions are incorporated in this Day 3 lesson.
- It is good to reinforce the key points of the lesson by asking questions and having our friends participate in the large group. This helps them with a smoother transition into the small group discussion time which follows the large group lesson.

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### LARGE GROUP LESSON, DAY 3 CONTINUED

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- Thank you for your willingness to lead the Day 3 lesson. You are encouraged to review the Large Group Leaders Guide and the notes for this presentation. The links can be found on the Connection Ministries website next to the training video.
- If you have any questions or need information you can email us at [connect@connection-ministries.org](mailto:connect@connection-ministries.org) or call our office 317-646-5067.