

The Disciples of Emmaus (Luke 24, 13-35)

SEE

Luke 24,13-35	Elements of the CONVERSION process	What questions can we ask ourselves today?
<i>Now that very same day, two of them were on their way to a village called Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem,</i>	The identity of the characters, "disciples", shows that they are people who lived with Jesus. In their reality, something important had happened that occupied their people and that they needed to express and exchange	
<i>and they were talking together about all that had happened.</i>	Jesus meets them on the way and integrates himself into the moment in which they live. He continues to walk with them in their footsteps and listen to them. He accompanies them	
<i>but their eyes were prevented from recognising him</i>	The disciples were submerged in their feelings and thoughts, in their words. They did not see beyond what concerned them..... Although they knew Jesus, at that time, he was a stranger to them.	
<i>He said to them, 'What are all these things that you are discussing as you walk along?' They stopped, their faces downcast</i>	Jesus is interested in what concerns the two disciples, perceives that they do not agree and finds peace. He asks them a simple question so that they can clarify what is in them, untie the inner knots and express them.	
<i>Then one of them, called Cleopas, answered him, 'You must be the only person staying in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have been happening there these last few days.'</i>	Cleopas' answer is a sign that at least they have noticed that someone is walking with them, but Jesus' question seems inappropriate to them, they find it absurd that someone is not aware of the events that occupy them so much.	
<i>He asked, 'What things?'</i>	Jesus asks another question again, this time more direct, so that the disciples' response comes closer and closer to the centre of their concern.	
<i>They answered, 'All about Jesus of Nazareth, who showed himself a prophet powerful in action and speech before God and the whole people; and how our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and had him crucified</i>	The disciples finally open up and share what they bring inside. They speak of Jesus as a man who is recognized by many and who has left a mark. In his words, we notice that their death hurt them and that they do not understand why a good man took his life as a criminal. They understood the facts, but not their meaning.	
<i>Our own hope had been that he would be the one to set Israel free. And this is not all: two whole days have now gone by since it all happened;</i>	Jesus' death contradicted all the expectations of the Jewish people. What happened caused them disappointment, frustration, they feel disappointed..	
<i>and some women from our group have astounded us: they went to the tomb in the early morning, and when they could not find the body, they came back to tell us they had seen a vision of angels who declared he was alive. Some of our friends went to the tomb and found everything exactly as the women had reported, but of him they saw nothing.'</i>	The two disciples recount unexplainable events that nevertheless concerned them. Although they heard Jesus himself speak of the resurrection, they listened to what the women were saying and saw the empty tomb, none of this is enough to give meaning to the events, they did not see it.....	

JUDGE

<i>Then he said to them, 'You foolish men! So slow to believe all that the prophets have said!</i>	Jesus notes the confusion of the disciples and makes them see through his comment that their intelligence is reduced, imprisoned and their hearts asleep.	
<i>Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer before entering into his glory?' Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the scriptures that were about himself.</i>	He questions them and reminds them of something they already knew. It opens the door to a different interpretation of facts that broadens their perspective, brings them closer to the meaning of events and helps them to unite reason and heart.	

ACT

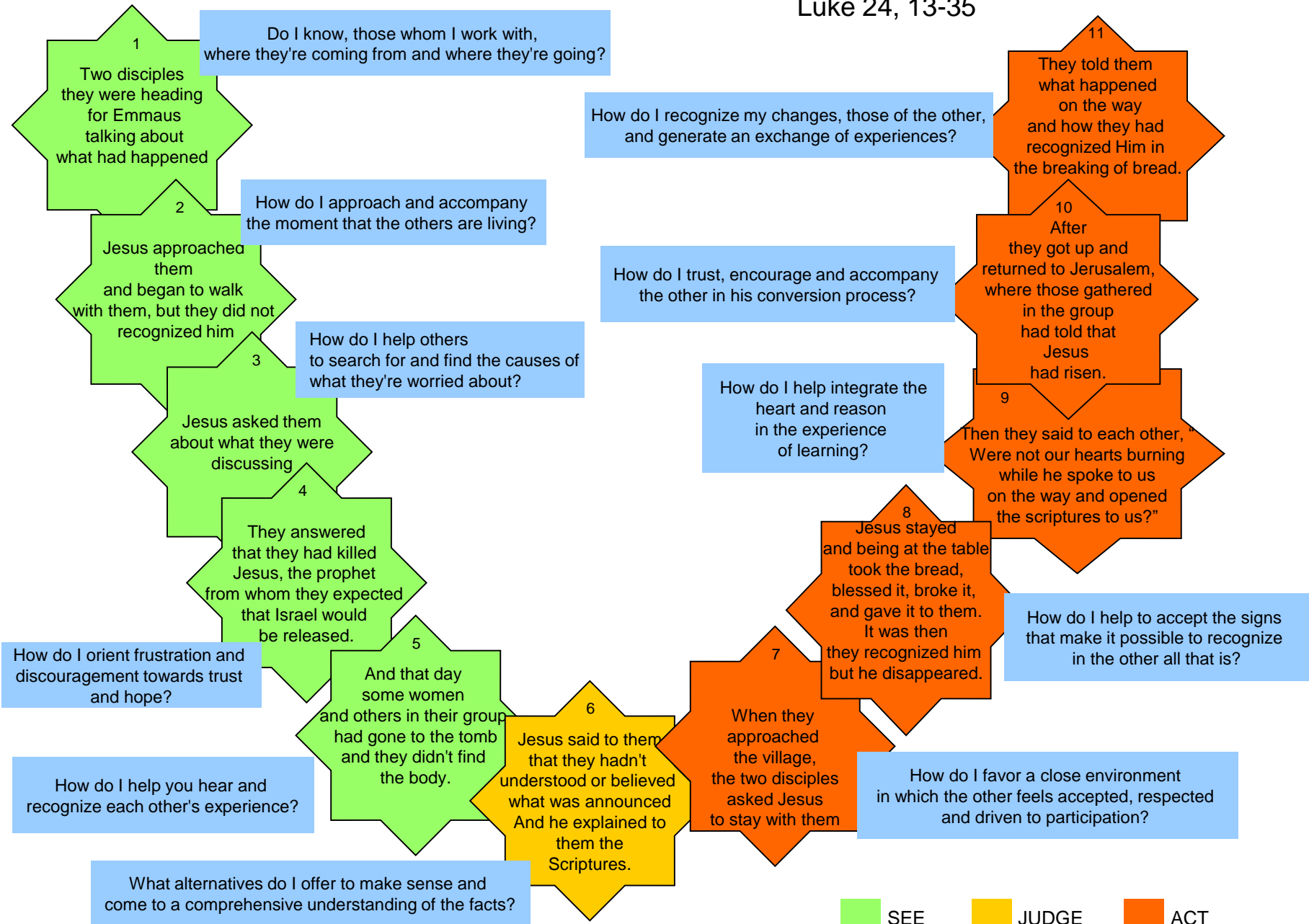
<i>When they drew near to the village to which they were going, he made as if to go on; but they pressed him to stay with them saying, 'It is nearly evening, and the day is almost over.'</i>	Jesus' presence on the way, his questions and answers gradually opened the understanding and heart of the disciples. They feel comfortable with him and want to continue working with him.	
<i>So he went in to stay with them. Now while he was with them at table, he took the bread and said the blessing; then he broke it and handed it to them.</i>	Jesus accepted the invitation and sat down to eat with the disciples, making a gesture they already knew.	
<i>And their eyes were opened and they recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight.</i>	Through the gesture of blessing, breaking and distributing bread, the process that the disciples experienced fully touches their whole being: their intelligence has opened and their heart has awakened. Now they are able to go further and they can grasp with faith	
<i>Then they said to each other, 'Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?'</i>	The disciples suddenly realized that they had lost fear, hope and meaning.	
<i>They set out that instant and returned to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven assembled together with their companions,</i>	What they experienced in their encounter with Jesus was so significant that the disciples were moved to communicate what they had discovered and to return to Jerusalem, from where they had been disappointed.	
<i>who said to them, 'The Lord has indeed risen and has appeared to Simon.'</i>	The 11 disciples who had remained in Jerusalem confirm to both of them what was in them an experience that still has no words: Jesus rose from the dead... Hope is reopened, life acquires a new and profound meaning. From a new interpretation, a new life plan is born	

CELEBRATE

<i>Then they told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised him at the breaking of bread."</i>	By telling you what you have experienced, you deepen trust and hope. The sign of the breaking of the bread by which the disciples recognize Jesus reinforces the certainty that Jesus lives and remains with us, leading to a new understanding of life.	
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PROCESS OF CONVERSION

Luke 24, 13-35



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