

**W**e know that the experience of Jesus’ passion and death took a profound toll on his friends and followers, and that while his closest disciples hid for safety, many others probably fled Jerusalem for fear of persecution. The odd thing was that Cleopas, and the other disciple—probably his wife, Mary—had heard the news early that morning about the empty tomb and appearance of angels to Mary Magdalene. But instead of remaining with the rest of the disciples, they decided that they had had enough of this emotional rollercoaster ride of expectation and disappointment. Now they were heading to a Roman spa town, outside of Jerusalem. What they were looking for there, we don’t really know, but it seems clearer what they wanted to leave behind: further drama, peril, and perhaps responsibility for what might happen next in this nascent religious movement.

Yet, however we are to understand what they experienced on the road while walking away from all that they wanted to leave behind, something changes them. Something fills them with such understanding and insight that the meaning of these events all becomes clear.

### **Imagine yourself on a similar journey—**

**Where are you going?**

**Who are your  
traveling companions?**

**What are you  
talking about?**

**How does Jesus  
join you?**

**What does he say?**

**Are you listening?**

**Urge him to stay for  
dinner. What happens?**

**Where has this  
journey brought you?**

**Actually, “someone” changes them, and helps them to reframe this tragedy, their sacrifices and hardships in a way that restores for them a sense of conviction and purpose, so much so that their “hearts were burning” as he spoke to them.**

**These questions remind us who we are, what we stand for, what we’re willing to sacrifice.**

## **Walk the Emmaus Road with the risen Christ**