

The Gospel Project for Adults, Fall 2017
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Session 7

Introduction: *Engage their thinking by using the “Think-Pair-Share” technique.*

Encourage learners to identify their favorite novel or movie. Talk about why they enjoy that storyline so much. Then say something like this: “Most novels and movies have a ‘turning point,’ a key moment where everything changes for the main character.”

Ask your group members to **think** for 30 seconds about their own stories and to identify a turning point in their lives. Say: “Take a minute to share your responses with the person on your left or right who is not your spouse. Let them know why your turning point is so significant.” (Pause for 60 seconds.) Call on a few volunteers to **share** as time allows.

Point 1: *Promote a better understanding of the passage.*

Encourage a volunteer to briefly recap the context for the disciples walking to Emmaus. Point out that the days leading up to their journey were a confusing whirlwind. Use the following questions to discuss how their experience relates to class members’ experiences.

- *What word would you use to describe how the disciples felt on the road to Emmaus?*
- *When have you felt completely confused or overwhelmed by circumstances in your life?*
- *How did that affect your ability to recognize where Jesus was at work?*

Affirm that we all go through situations where circumstances make it tough to see Jesus or even to trust Him. Encourage learners to lean into Jesus even more during those times when they can see Him clearly.

Point 2: *Connect with a major theme.*

Turn to the Further Commentary on page 83. In the excerpt, the writer points out, “[The disciples] had expected Jesus to bring political release from Rome and usher in a new era of freedom for Israel.” Point out that this was a common misunderstanding of the Messiah’s role in first-century Israel.

Ask a volunteer to read, Isaiah 53:1-8. Discuss how this picture of a “suffering servant” fits Jesus’ ministry—and how it stands in contrast to the messianic understanding of the day. Ask the question, “How is Jesus misunderstood in our culture?”

Discuss responses. Remind learners that the best way to know who Jesus is and what He does is to spend time in God’s Word, which as Jesus teaches in this passage reveals who He is and what He came to do (Luke 24:25-27; cf. vv. 44-47). Challenge them to study the Scriptures regularly so they can provide an accurate answer to the culture’s questions about the Messiah.

Point 3: *Seek to understand how Jesus’ reveals Himself today.*

Talk about how Jesus revealed Himself to the Emmaus disciples. Point out that something familiar in Jesus’ mannerisms—or a supernatural act of God—allowed their eyes to be opened before He disappeared. Share that Jesus still longs to reveal Himself to people today, usually through His Word and His Spirit. Group the learners into four teams. Give each team one of the following passages to study:

- Ephesians 1:7
- 2 Peter 1:20-21
- John 16:13-14
- Ephesians 6:17

Instruct each team to work through their assigned verses and to determine what each says about the relationship between the Holy Spirit and Scripture. After a few minutes, allow teams to report on their work. Emphasize that the Spirit inspired the Word and gives us wisdom and insight into the Word. Encourage learners to invite the Spirit into their Bible study so they can learn more about who Jesus is—and how their lives should reflect Him to the world.

Conclusion: *Challenge for application.*

Share the following statistics with the members of your Bible study:

At the beginning of 2017, Barna researchers found that 61% of the people they surveyed had a desire to read the Bible more than they had in the past. However, only 23% said that they actually had been able to increase their Bible reading. Most respondents (66%) said that they were reading about the same amount as they always had.

Point out that while it's great to want to read the Bible more, we actually have to make the time and commitment to see it through. Share that believers cannot effectively know the Messiah or share the Messiah unless we spend time in His Word. Encourage learners to start spending intentional time in the Word this week.

[Source: "Bible Reading in 2017: A New Year's Resolution," Barna, January 18, 2017, <https://www.barna.com/research/bible-reading-2017-new-years-resolution>.]