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A Church That ...

WEEK 1 | A CHURCH THAT... WORSHIPS GOD

## PRAYER

Meet us, Lord, on the road to Emmaus,  
Guide us on the path toward our destination,  
and renew our strength as we continue to walk and commune with you.  
Open our eyes, so we see the signs of your presence around us;  
open our hearts, so we may receive your peace and love;  
and empower us to pass on to others  
the grace you have shared with us so freely.

Amen.

*[- Rev Frank Shaefer, "Desperate Preacher"](#)*

## WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

Was there ever a time you received something, but it was not what you expected? What was it and how did you feel receiving it?

## NOTES

## WORD

<sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see." <sup>25</sup> And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup> And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup> So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, <sup>29</sup> but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" <sup>33</sup> And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, <sup>34</sup> saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread..

### [LUKE 24:19-35](#)

We were created for oneness with the Almighty God, but we experience so many challenges along the way that cause us to be distracted, challenged, and even drawn away from recognising this is our purpose. Two of the things that draw us away from this oneness we get to have with God through Jesus are a hopeless perspective and a hurried pace of living.

In his book, *Three Mile an Hour God*, Japanese theologian, Kosuke Koyama, wrote:

"God walks 'slowly' because he is love. If he is not love, he would have gone much faster. Love has its speed. It is an inner speed. It is a spiritual speed. It is a different kind of speed from the technological speed to which we are accustomed. It is 'slow', yet it is lord over all other speeds, since it is the speed of love. It goes on in the depth of our life, whether we notice or not, whether we are currently hit by a storm or not, at three miles an hour. It is the speed we walk and therefore it is the speed the love of God walks.

The people of God were taught the truth of bread and the word of God in the wilderness as they walked three miles an hour by the three mile an hour God. The Canaanite woman believed in Jesus Christ against all her own speeds by trusting the speed of the promise of God."

## GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale from 1-10 (1 = none at all; 10 = extreme), how would you rate your capacity to live life at an unhurried pace with an awareness of God? Why might you say this?
2. What do you think it is that blocks us from recognising Jesus in our lives?
3. Would you say that the pace of life that you are living right now gives you the adequate time and capacity to meet with God and worship him? Why?
4. How can you more effectively integrate worshiping God into your lifestyle?
5. Have you put your trust in Jesus? Would you be willing to slow down for a loving union in God's presence in every area of your life? Would you like to enter into a saving relationship with God through Jesus? Ask your Life Group leader to lead you in prayer to receive Christ. You can pray this prayer:

*Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite you to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow you as my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

## PRAYER