

Session 4: Israel's Calling



INTRODUCTION

This session focuses on God's faithfulness to the people of Israel, and how Israel's story is part of our family history as Christians. The story of Israel helps us see how our faith makes a difference in a complex and messy world. Indeed, God calls ordinary people to trust him and blesses them so that they might be a blessing to others. God is with us—in our failures and our faithfulness—and continues to work through us to redeem this broken world.

EMMAUS ROAD REFLECTION

"As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them." —Luke 24:15

1. What has God been saying to me through this episode (e.g. encouragement, challenge)?
2. What was significant or new? What questions did it raise?

DISCUSSION

1. What struck you about Rich Dean's fear about working as a lawyer? What changed for him?
2. What was God's purpose in calling Israel? How did God work in the life of Israel and ordinary people?
3. Rich Dean faced complex situations. Are there situations or areas of life that are impossible to redeem? Should Christians be involved? Discuss why or why not.
4. What complex situations have you experienced? What can you learn from the story of God's relationship with Israel in these situations?

ACTIVITY

God calls us, like Israel, to be a blessing to others through acts of everyday faithfulness. Remember a time when someone helped you during a difficult time through an act of kindness. Or when someone blessed you with a simple gesture. What impact did this have on you? If appropriate, share this experience with the group.

Now think of someone you would like to encourage, either as a group or personally. It could be a friend, a family member, or a colleague. Before the next session, try to do something to encourage and bless them. This could involve taking the person out for a meal or coffee, or writing them a note. Tell them what you appreciate about them. Be specific in your encouragement.