

(Our Story Discussion Group will not be meeting on Easter Sunday. The video for this lesson can be found here: [Video for Lesson 27](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JKnP1rONjtLyujzxLGnln5mmmVXqFEZZ/view?usp=drivesdk). Or, you can copy this link into your browser: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JKnP1rONjtLyujzxLGnln5mmmVXqFEZZ/view?usp=drivesdk>.)

The disciples feel the sting of the Lower Story

An empty tomb: He is Risen

Resurrection appearances

Jesus commissions his followers before returning to the Upper Story

Discussion questions:

1. Tell about a person you were close with who has passed away. How is that person's life still impacting yours?
2. Mary stood outside the empty tomb weeping...until Jesus revealed himself to her (John 20:10-18). What did Jesus teach her about himself? Tell about a moment when your eyes were opened with greater clarity, and you came to know Jesus in a deeper way than you had before that moment.
3. On the road to Emmaus, the resurrected Jesus taught two men the truth of the Old Testament Scriptures (Luke 24:13-49). How does understanding the first part of The Story (the Old Testament) help us understand the rest of it (the New Testament)?
4. Thomas was not willing to believe Jesus was alive until he saw him with his own eyes (John 20:24-29). When Jesus revealed himself to Thomas, how did he seek to meet Thomas right where he was and help him move toward faith? How has God met you similarly?
5. The risen Jesus met the disciples while they were out fishing (John 21:1-19). How did Peter respond when he realized it was Jesus? What did Jesus do to restore Peter and set him back on course to live a life of service? At the end of Jesus' interaction with Peter, he said, "Follow me!" the same words he spoke when he first called Peter. Tell how Jesus has called you to follow him and one way you are seeking to live out this calling.
6. Before Jesus ascended back to the Upper Story of heaven, he called his followers to specific tasks (Matthew 28:16-20). What did Jesus call them (and us) to do and what is God's part and our part in this mission?
7. Where in your life are you feeling the sting of Lower Story pain but also experiencing Upper Story joy? How does focusing on Jesus' resurrection and the assurance of our own bring hope and strength in life's tough times?
8. When we understand the message of The Story and enter a restored relationship with God, we want to share it with others. Who is one person you are praying will enter a relationship with Jesus and how are you seeking to reach out to him or her?

Homework: Create a list of people you love and care about who have not discovered the truth of God's story and who are not yet in a relationship with God through faith in Jesus. Commit to use this list as a prayer reminder. Also, seek opportunities to share God's story and your story with them. Consider giving them a copy of The Story and encourage them to read it.

For next week, read Chapter 28 of The Story (Acts 1-10, 12).