

# Heroes of Scripture and Screen:

## The Road to Emmaus and The Wizard of Oz

After watching the movie, read these **questions** and the Bible passage and talk about them as a family. It's best to do this right after watching the movie but you can also do it in the next day or so. The conversation could take anywhere from 10-20 minutes but we hope that it sparks an interest in noticing and sharing God throughout your daily life.

**A Moment to Remember:** **Which moment in the movie did you like the most? Why?**

*Read this passage from the Bible (Luke 24:13-27 NRSV):*

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' He asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 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 took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

*If you have the time, take a look at this Venn Diagram and talk about whether it lines up with how you interpret the scripture and the movie (or just skip to the rest of the **questions**):*

### Tin Man, Lion, & Scarecrow

On the yellow brick road to Oz.

Meet Toto and Dorothy along the road.

Defeat the Wicked Witch.

Missing heart, courage, and wisdom.

Not really missing these things because they have had them all along but overlooked them, until a friend (or savior) inspired them.

### Jesus' Disciples

On the dirt road to Emmaus.

Meet Jesus along the road.

Spread the good news across the land.

#### Theme in Scripture – Brains, Heart, and Courage:

Here we have two disciples of Jesus walking along the road between Jerusalem and Emmaus. Neither of the two are among Jesus' main twelve disciples. Jesus, who has just risen from the dead that morning, joins them on the road and they are surprised to hear that he doesn't know what has been going on lately in the region. They proceed to talk about Jesus and paint a picture of him that's missing some key things. For one thing, they aren't even able to recognize that the person who's walking with them now is Jesus himself! It's almost as though they can see a projection of Jesus but not the real thing. Jesus lets them know what they're problem is; they are "foolish," "slow of heart," and misunderstand Jesus' suffering and glory. **These disciples are walking away from Jerusalem, where Jesus died and rose again, so in what ways is Jesus trying to get them to turn around and head back towards the truth?**

#### Theme on the Screen – Brains, Heart, and Courage:

Dorothy and her companions set off along the yellow brick road to meet the Wizard of Oz. Instead they meet the man behind the curtain. While the Wizard is a fraud, Jesus is the real deal. But the disciples on the road to Emmaus fail to see their Messiah for who he really is. Like the Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Lion, they feel like something is missing. Dorothy's adventure to find a way home actually helps her companions discover that what they thought was missing was with them all along. Brains, heart, and courage were within each of them, ready to be drawn out.

**How are the disciples like Scarecrow, Tin Man, Lion, and Dorothy?**

**The Scene that Says it All:** **Which scene in the movie best represents this theme of brains, heart, and courage. Why?** *(Is it when Dorothy's companions storm the witch's castle, or when the Wizard gives each a token of their inner strength, or another scene?)*

**Bonus question:** **Which of Dorothy's companions (including Toto) are you most like? Why?**