

formed

*Words That Move Us
From Believer to Disciple*

A BETTER STORY

*Formed
Week 7
Amanda Beggs*

KEY POINTS

- Stories form us biologically and spiritually, and we must ask what stories we are allowing to shepherd us and where those stories are leading us.
- Cultural stories of success, self-discovery, and material fulfillment ultimately collapse under the weight of unmet expectations because they cannot deliver on their promises.
- Jesus draws near to us in our moments of disappointment and unmet expectations before we even recognize him.
- Reading the Bible with Christ at the center, rather than as a self-help guide or rule book, is the way the risen Jesus himself taught Scripture.
- Every major figure and event in the Old Testament points forward to Jesus as the fulfillment of the whole biblical story.
- A burning heart is not a manufactured feeling but the work of the Holy Spirit when we engage with God's word.
- Following Jesus is a cycle of revelation and response that deepens over time.
- A burning heart responds with an invitation, urging Jesus to stay and asking the Holy Spirit to open our eyes.
- A burning heart compels us to tell our stories, both the large story of salvation and the small daily stories of God's faithfulness.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Luke 24:13-35

Ephesians 1

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways might your own expectations of Jesus be limiting your understanding of who he truly is and what he has come to accomplish?
2. When Jesus is the hero of the story, failure is no longer the end and suffering can be redeemed with purpose. How does placing Jesus at the center of your story practically change the way you process hardship or personal failure?
3. Jesus waited for an invitation before staying with the disciples at Emmaus, even though he had already been walking with them. What does it mean to you that God both initiates relationship and also waits to be invited in more deeply, and how does that shape your prayer life?
4. Adam, Isaac, Moses, and the Passover lamb whisper the name of Jesus in their stories. What does it mean for your faith to see all of scripture as a unified narrative pointing to Christ, and how might that perspective change the way you study the Bible?
5. How does the eternal dimension of God's story reshape the way you think about the disappointments, longings, and unfinished chapters you are living through right now?

formed