

walk of emmaus letter

walk of emmaus letter is a significant term often associated with Christian teachings, devotionals, and spiritual reflections inspired by the biblical account of the Walk to Emmaus. This letter conceptually represents communication or messages derived from the profound experience described in the Gospel of Luke, where two disciples encounter the resurrected Jesus Christ on the road to Emmaus. The walk of emmaus letter serves as a powerful tool for conveying faith, hope, and the transformative power of recognizing Jesus in everyday life. This article delves into the historical background, spiritual significance, and practical applications of the walk of emmaus letter, exploring its role in religious education and personal growth. Readers will gain insight into how this letter format can be used to deepen understanding of scripture and foster meaningful spiritual conversations. The guide also outlines steps for composing an effective walk of emmaus letter and highlights its relevance in contemporary Christian communities.

- Historical and Biblical Background of the Walk to Emmaus
- Spiritual Significance of the Walk of Emmaus Letter
- Elements and Structure of a Walk of Emmaus Letter
- Practical Uses of the Walk of Emmaus Letter in Ministry and Personal Devotion
- Tips for Writing an Effective Walk of Emmaus Letter

Historical and Biblical Background of the Walk to Emmaus

The walk of Emmaus originates from a well-known biblical narrative found in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 24, verses 13-35. After the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, two of his disciples were traveling from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus. During their journey, they were joined by a stranger who explained the Scriptures concerning the Messiah. It was only later, during the breaking of bread, that they recognized the stranger as the resurrected Jesus. This story has become a foundation for Christian reflection on faith, revelation, and the recognition of Christ in daily life. Understanding this historical and biblical context is essential for appreciating the meaning behind the walk of emmaus letter.

Context within the Gospel Narrative

The Emmaus account takes place on the day of Jesus' resurrection, making it one of the earliest post-resurrection appearances. The disciples were initially confused and sorrowful, grappling with the unexpected events. Jesus' presence and teaching helped transform their despair into joy and renewed faith. This narrative highlights the journey from doubt to belief, a theme that the walk of emmaus letter seeks to embody and communicate.

Emmaus in Early Christian Tradition

Early Christians viewed the Emmaus story as a powerful testimony of resurrection and divine revelation. Churches and spiritual writings have referenced the walk to Emmaus as a metaphor for the believer's journey toward understanding and encountering God. The walk of emmaus letter has roots in this tradition, aiming to replicate the transformative encounter through written reflection and encouragement.

Spiritual Significance of the Walk of Emmaus Letter

The walk of emmaus letter carries profound spiritual significance as it encapsulates the themes of recognition, revelation, and renewal found in the biblical event. This letter serves as a medium for sharing spiritual insights, encouraging faith, and inviting readers to reflect on their own spiritual journeys. It embodies the idea that Christ walks alongside believers, often unnoticed until revealed through scripture, prayer, or fellowship.

Encouragement in Faith

One of the primary purposes of the walk of emmaus letter is to encourage those who may be struggling with doubt or discouragement. The letter reminds readers that, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, they are not alone and that understanding comes through patience and openness to God's presence. It offers comfort and reassurance that spiritual clarity is possible even in times of confusion.

Invitation to Spiritual Reflection

The letter format invites recipients to engage in spiritual reflection, prompting them to consider how they recognize Jesus in their own lives. It often includes meditations on scripture, personal testimonies, or devotional thoughts that foster deeper connection with God. This reflective aspect is key to the letter's role in spiritual growth and discipleship.

Elements and Structure of a Walk of Emmaus Letter

A well-crafted walk of emmaus letter typically follows a structured format that facilitates clarity and spiritual impact. Understanding the essential elements helps in composing a letter that effectively conveys its message and resonates with readers. The structure usually includes an introduction, scriptural foundation, personal reflection, encouragement, and a closing prayer or blessing.

Introduction and Purpose

The introduction sets the tone by establishing the purpose of the letter—often to share encouragement, insight, or testimony related to the Emmaus journey. It may reference the biblical story or the theme of spiritual discovery to draw readers in.

Scriptural Foundation

Central to the letter is a strong scriptural foundation, typically including passages from Luke 24 or related scriptures that illuminate the themes of resurrection, revelation, and faith. This grounding in scripture underscores the letter's authority and spiritual relevance.

Personal Reflection and Application

This section provides a personal or pastoral reflection that connects the biblical narrative to contemporary life. It may include examples, analogies, or questions that encourage readers to apply the lessons of the Emmaus story to their own spiritual walk.

Encouragement and Exhortation

The letter then offers words of encouragement, exhorting readers to remain faithful, seek understanding, and recognize Christ's presence in their lives. This motivational component is key to the letter's impact.

Closing Prayer or Blessing

Finally, the letter concludes with a prayer or blessing, invoking God's guidance, peace, and revelation for the reader's ongoing journey. This closure reinforces the spiritual connection established throughout the letter.

Practical Uses of the Walk of Emmaus Letter in Ministry and Personal Devotion

The walk of emmaus letter serves multiple practical purposes within Christian ministry, education, and personal devotion. Its adaptability makes it a valuable resource for pastors, small group leaders, spiritual directors, and individual believers seeking to deepen faith or share encouragement.

Use in Pastoral Ministry

Pastors often use the walk of emmaus letter to provide spiritual guidance, especially during times of congregational struggle or when addressing themes of resurrection and hope. The letter format allows for personalized communication that can be distributed through newsletters, bulletins, or direct correspondence.

Small Group and Discipleship Resources

In small groups or discipleship settings, the walk of emmaus letter can serve as a study or discussion prompt. Group members can write and exchange letters, fostering mutual encouragement and deeper engagement with scripture. This practice enhances community bonds and spiritual accountability.

Personal Devotional Practice

Individuals may write walk of emmaus letters as part of their own devotional life, reflecting on their spiritual journey and articulating insights gained through prayer and scripture reading. This exercise promotes self-examination and spiritual clarity.

List of Practical Uses:

- Encouraging faith during challenging times
- Facilitating group Bible study discussions
- Supporting spiritual retreats or workshops
- Providing personalized pastoral care
- Enhancing personal spiritual journaling and reflection

Tips for Writing an Effective Walk of Emmaus Letter

Composing an impactful walk of emmaus letter requires thoughtful attention to tone, content, and structure. The following tips can assist writers in crafting a letter that resonates spiritually and encourages meaningful reflection.

Maintain Scriptural Integrity

Ensure that all scriptural references are accurate and thoughtfully integrated. The letter should faithfully reflect the biblical message of the Emmaus story, avoiding personal interpretations that stray from orthodox teachings.

Use Clear and Compassionate Language

The tone should be warm, encouraging, and respectful. Clear language helps readers understand the message easily, while compassion fosters a sense of

connection and care.

Incorporate Personal or Relatable Examples

Sharing personal experiences or relatable stories can help illustrate spiritual truths and make the letter more engaging. These examples bridge the gap between ancient scripture and modern life.

Encourage Reflection and Response

Include questions or prompts that invite readers to reflect on their own spiritual walk and respond to the letter's message. This interactive element deepens the letter's impact.

Keep the Letter Concise and Focused

While thoroughness is valuable, avoid overly long letters that may lose the reader's interest. Aim for clarity and focus on the core message inspired by the Emmaus journey.

Summary of Writing Tips:

1. Anchor content in scripture
2. Adopt a compassionate tone
3. Use relatable illustrations
4. Include reflective questions
5. Maintain concise and clear messaging

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Walk to Emmaus letter?

The Walk to Emmaus letter is a personal letter written during or after the

Walk to Emmaus retreat, typically shared among participants to express gratitude, reflections, and spiritual growth experienced during the event.

How is the Walk to Emmaus letter used in the retreat process?

The letter is often written by the pilgrim to their sponsors or fellow community members to share insights, encouragement, and the impact of the Walk to Emmaus on their faith journey.

What should be included in a Walk to Emmaus letter?

A Walk to Emmaus letter should include personal reflections, expressions of thanks, scripture references that resonated, and a commitment to continue spiritual growth and service.

When is the best time to write a Walk to Emmaus letter?

Typically, pilgrims write their Walk to Emmaus letters during the retreat itself or shortly after completing the weekend to capture their fresh experiences and emotions.

Can Walk to Emmaus letters be shared publicly?

While many Walk to Emmaus letters are personal and shared within small groups or with sponsors, some are shared publicly in newsletters or community gatherings to inspire others and build fellowship.

Additional Resources

1. The Walk to Emmaus: A Journey of Faith and Renewal

This book explores the spiritual significance of the Walk to Emmaus experience, offering readers insights into how this biblical event can inspire personal faith renewal. Through a combination of scriptural reflection and practical application, it guides believers on deepening their relationship with Christ. The author also includes testimonies from participants who have undergone the transformative walk.

2. Emmaus Letters: Reflections on Encountering the Risen Christ

A collection of letters and meditations inspired by the Walk to Emmaus story, this book invites readers to reflect on the presence of Christ in everyday life. Each letter delves into themes of recognition, hope, and discipleship, encouraging an intimate and ongoing dialogue with Jesus. The format makes it accessible for personal devotion or group study.

3. Rediscovering Emmaus: Lessons from the Road

This book takes readers on a journey alongside the disciples on the road to

Emmaus, unpacking the lessons they learned about faith, doubt, and revelation. It highlights how their experience can be applied to modern Christian living, emphasizing trust in God's timing and the power of Scripture. The narrative style engages readers in a fresh perspective on an ancient story.

4. Walking with Jesus: The Emmaus Experience Today

Focusing on the relevance of the Emmaus story in contemporary life, this book offers practical guidance on how believers can experience Jesus in their daily walk. It combines biblical exegesis with spiritual exercises designed to open hearts and minds to God's presence. Ideal for individuals and small groups seeking a deeper connection with Christ.

5. The Emmaus Road: A Path to Spiritual Renewal

This book presents the Emmaus road as a metaphor for the spiritual journey every Christian undertakes. Through thoughtful reflection and prayer prompts, it encourages readers to embrace moments of confusion and revelation in their faith walk. The author highlights how the encounter with the risen Christ transforms despair into hope.

6. Letters from Emmaus: Stories of Transformation

A compilation of inspiring stories and letters from people who have experienced transformation through the Emmaus movement or their own spiritual journeys. These narratives showcase the power of fellowship, prayer, and scripture in fostering growth and renewal. The book serves as both encouragement and testimony to the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit.

7. The Road to Emmaus: Unlocking the Mystery of Faith

This book delves into the theological and historical context of the Walk to Emmaus, providing readers with a deeper understanding of its significance. It explores themes such as resurrection, recognition, and mission, inviting believers to unlock the mysteries of their own faith. Rich with biblical scholarship, it is suitable for serious students of scripture.

8. Emmaus: Encountering Christ in the Everyday

By focusing on the idea that Christ meets us in the ordinary moments of life, this book encourages readers to find spiritual meaning in daily routines. It draws on the Emmaus narrative to illustrate how openness and attentiveness lead to transformative encounters. The author includes practical tips for cultivating awareness of God's presence.

9. From Doubt to Belief: The Emmaus Journey

This book traces the emotional and spiritual journey from skepticism to faith as experienced by the disciples on the road to Emmaus. It offers encouragement to those struggling with doubt, showing how questions and uncertainty can lead to a deeper and more resilient belief. Through biblical reflection and personal stories, it provides hope for seekers and believers alike.

Walk Of Emmaus Letter

Walk of Emmaus Letter: Unveiling the Power of Shared Faith

Author: Dr. Elias Thorne, PhD (Religious Studies)

Ebook Outline:

Introduction: The Historical and Literary Context of the Emmaus Narrative.

Chapter 1: The Journey to Emmaus: A Detailed Exegesis of Luke 24:13-35. Analysis of key characters, setting, and events.

Chapter 2: The Breaking of Bread: Symbolism and Spiritual Significance. Exploration of the Eucharist and its connection to recognizing Christ.

Chapter 3: The "Burning Hearts": Understanding the Inner Transformation. Examination of the emotional and spiritual impact of the encounter.

Chapter 4: The Emmaus Narrative in Christian Art and Literature. Tracing its enduring influence throughout history.

Chapter 5: Modern Applications of the Emmaus Journey: Finding Christ in Everyday Life. Connecting the story to contemporary spiritual experiences and challenges.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of the Walk to Emmaus and its Call to Discipleship.

Walk of Emmaus Letter: A Comprehensive Exploration

Introduction: The Historical and Literary Context of the Emmaus Narrative

The story of the Walk to Emmaus, recounted in Luke 24:13-35, is a pivotal narrative within the Gospel of Luke and the broader Christian tradition. It provides a powerful depiction of the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus and the transformative power of faith. Understanding its context is crucial to appreciating its profound message.

Historically, the narrative is situated in the immediate aftermath of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. The disciples, overwhelmed by grief and disbelief, struggle to reconcile their hopes with the brutal reality of Jesus' death. Emmaus itself, a village approximately seven miles from Jerusalem, represents a journey both literal and metaphorical – a distance away from the events in Jerusalem and, symbolically, a distance from true understanding. The setting reflects the emotional and spiritual disorientation experienced by the disciples.

Literarily, the Emmaus narrative is a masterclass in storytelling. Luke employs vivid imagery, dialogue, and carefully crafted symbolism to communicate a compelling message of faith, recognition, and transformation. The narrative's structure – the journey, the breaking of bread, the recognition – mirrors the journey of faith itself. It highlights the incremental nature of spiritual

understanding and the importance of community in the process of discipleship. The careful weaving of narrative elements within the broader Gospel of Luke adds layers of meaning and significance. The narrative resonates with other resurrection appearances, subtly emphasizing the multifaceted nature of Christ's post-resurrection ministry.

Chapter 1: The Journey to Emmaus: A Detailed Exegesis of Luke 24:13-35

Luke's account meticulously details the journey to Emmaus. Two disciples, despondent over Jesus' crucifixion, are walking away from Jerusalem, their hopes dashed. Their conversation reflects their disillusionment and lack of understanding of the resurrection reports. They are open to hearing news, but their preconceived notions blind them to the truth. This emphasizes a common human experience: the difficulty of accepting truths that contradict our expectations.

The introduction of the stranger (Jesus in disguise) is crucial. His engagement with their conversation subtly reveals his identity. He doesn't overtly proclaim himself, allowing the narrative to emphasize the gradual unveiling of the truth. His questions and explanations challenge their understanding of scripture and its fulfillment in Jesus. This underscores the importance of scriptural interpretation and the role of divine revelation in deepening faith.

The careful pacing of the story is noteworthy. The stranger's presence is not immediately recognized, allowing the reader to witness the gradual process of recognition. This mirrors the often gradual nature of spiritual understanding – the journey itself being as significant as the destination.

Chapter 2: The Breaking of Bread: Symbolism and Spiritual Significance

The breaking of bread in the Emmaus narrative is far more than a simple meal. It's a profoundly symbolic act, laden with both historical and theological significance. Historically, the sharing of bread was a common act of hospitality and fellowship in ancient times. In the context of the story, it represents communion and a shared experience.

Theologically, the breaking of bread foreshadows the Eucharist, the central sacrament of the Christian faith. This act transforms the meal into a sacred ritual, where the disciples not only share bread but also partake in a deeper spiritual communion with Jesus. The recognition of Christ at the breaking of bread underscores the intimate and profound connection between the Eucharist and the presence of Christ. It implies that Christ is spiritually present in the act of communal sharing.

The act of breaking bread also highlights the transformative power of shared experiences. In sharing this meal, the disciples' understanding of Jesus' identity is solidified. This emphasizes the communal aspect of faith and the importance of shared experiences in deepening spiritual understanding.

Chapter 3: The "Burning Hearts": Understanding the Inner Transformation

The phrase "burning hearts," described in Luke 24:32, captures the transformative power of the encounter with the resurrected Jesus. This isn't merely a physical sensation, but a description of an inner spiritual awakening. Their hearts are "set aflame" by the presence of Jesus, and this reflects the emotional, intellectual, and spiritual transformation that takes place throughout their interaction. The hearts burning is a metaphor for the disciples' newfound understanding and the intensified passion for their faith.

This transformation highlights the emotional depth of faith. It wasn't simply an intellectual exercise; it was an intensely emotional and spiritual experience that shifted their perspective and renewed their hope. This emphasizes the power of faith to heal, renew, and transform even in the face of adversity. The "burning hearts" symbolize a moving away from despair and toward revitalized commitment.

The transformation is not instant; it's a gradual revelation that leads to a profound shift in perspective. This mirrors the process of spiritual growth, highlighting the importance of patience, persistence, and openness to divine revelation.

Chapter 4: The Emmaus Narrative in Christian Art and Literature

The Emmaus narrative has had a profound and lasting impact on Christian art and literature. For centuries, artists and writers have been captivated by its emotional depth and spiritual significance. Countless paintings, sculptures, and literary works depict the journey to Emmaus, each adding their own unique interpretation to the story.

The depiction of the "breaking of bread" scene is particularly prevalent in Christian art, emphasizing the sacramental significance of the event. Artists have varied in their portrayal of the stranger's identity, highlighting the gradual nature of the disciples' recognition. Some depictions emphasize the emotional intensity of the encounter, capturing the "burning hearts" in vivid detail.

Literary interpretations of the Emmaus narrative range from straightforward retellings to complex allegories. Authors have used the story to explore themes of faith, doubt, and the transformative power of divine grace. Modern authors continue to find inspiration in the story, relating it to contemporary challenges and spiritual struggles. The enduring relevance of the Emmaus narrative testifies to its timeless appeal and its ability to resonate across cultures and time periods.

Chapter 5: Modern Applications of the Emmaus Journey: Finding Christ in Everyday Life

The Emmaus narrative is not confined to the past; its message is profoundly relevant to modern life. The journey of the two disciples mirrors the spiritual journeys of many individuals today. The challenges they face – doubt, disillusionment, and a struggle to reconcile faith with reality – are experiences shared by many.

The story invites a critical reflection on our own journeys of faith. Where are we on our personal "Emmaus road"? What challenges and obstacles are preventing us from fully recognizing Christ in our lives? The narrative encourages self-reflection and a willingness to engage with the complexities of faith.

The recognition of Christ in the breaking of bread underscores the importance of community and shared experiences in our spiritual growth. It encourages us to seek out opportunities for fellowship and shared faith, just as the disciples found Christ in their shared journey and meal. This underscores the need for spiritual community and the support that comes from sharing our journeys with others.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of the Walk to Emmaus and its Call to Discipleship

The Walk to Emmaus remains a powerful and enduring symbol of faith, hope, and transformation. Its message resonates across centuries, providing a timeless narrative of spiritual discovery and growth. The story transcends its historical context, offering a powerful message of hope and encouragement to those struggling with doubt, despair, or a sense of spiritual disorientation. The narrative's lasting impact on Christian art, literature, and spiritual practice underscores its continuing relevance and significance.

The Emmaus journey concludes not with a grand revelation but with a call to action: to become disciples, to share the good news with others. It's a call to embrace faith actively, to carry the light of Christ into the world. The disciples' renewed commitment to their faith serves as a model for all believers, urging us to walk forward with hope and to share the transformative power of faith with others. The journey to Emmaus is ultimately a journey of transformation, a journey that continues to inspire and challenge us to this day.

FAQs

1. What is the significance of Emmaus in the Emmaus narrative? Emmaus represents both a geographical and symbolic distance from Jerusalem and the disciples' initial understanding of Jesus' death and resurrection.
2. Why is the breaking of bread such a significant moment in the story? The breaking of bread is a symbolic act that foreshadows the Eucharist and represents a deeper spiritual communion with Christ.

3. What is the meaning of "burning hearts" in the context of the narrative? The "burning hearts" represent a profound inner spiritual transformation, an awakening of faith and understanding.
4. How has the Emmaus narrative influenced Christian art and literature? The narrative has inspired countless works of art and literature, depicting the journey, the breaking of bread, and the transformative power of faith.
5. What are some modern applications of the Emmaus journey? The journey can be seen as a metaphor for our own spiritual journeys, urging self-reflection and a search for Christ in our everyday lives.
6. What is the significance of the stranger's identity being gradually revealed? The gradual revelation underscores the incremental nature of spiritual understanding and the importance of faith.
7. What is the main message of the Walk to Emmaus? The story conveys a message of hope, transformation, and the importance of faith, community, and discipleship.
8. How does the Emmaus narrative connect to other resurrection appearances in the Gospels? It reinforces the multifaceted nature of Christ's post-resurrection appearances and their transformative impact.
9. What is the call to action implied by the end of the Emmaus narrative? The concluding message emphasizes the disciples' renewed commitment to their faith and the importance of sharing the good news.

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walk of emmaus letter: Sponsorship Richard A. Gilmore, Janine Gilmore, 1998-06-01 This 40-page booklet guides individuals through the process of sponsoring fellow pilgrims on The Walk to Emmaus. The authors explore the range of possibilities in the role of the sponsor for the renewal of church leaders, Emmaus communities, and the church.

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doctrinal reflection, apologetics, polemics, liturgical anamnesis and doxology

walk of emmaus letter: The Emmaus Walk with Jesus Riaan Engelbrecht, 2023-01-31 There is a road we have to walk – it is our spiritual journey through life. It is our Emmaus walk where we become aware of God's Presence and we become aware of God's indwelling Spirit within us. The goal of our spiritual journey is to realise God is real, that God is alive and God has always been present with man just as Jesus was present with those who walked to Emmaus. Secondly, we then need to endure on this journey and overcome to the glory of the Lord. The world is full of stories of Jesus, and the world is also full of lies and deception. We can only know the truth when we meet the Truth. Volume 2 in the Discipleship series offers a more in-depth guide to what it really means to be a disciple, exploring themes of holiness and authority, within the context of the Great Commission of Matthew 28.

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of it is this: be a man, be a friend, be a leader, understand your times and what you should be doing. Well look to the Bible and Davids Mighty Men for insight, instruction, and motivation. Let your journey to insight and action begin!

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evangelical scholar Millard Erickson offers a new edition of his bestselling doctrine text (over 100,000 copies sold), now thoroughly revised throughout. This book is an abridged, less technical version of Erickson's classic Christian Theology. Pastors and students alike will find this survey of Christian theology and doctrine to be biblical, contemporary, moderate, and fair to various positions. It is a practical and accessible resource that applies doctrine to Christian life and ministry. This book is supplemented with helpful web materials for students and professors through Baker Academic's Textbook eSources.

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tactics and strategies convenient to both members and congregations—including electronic giving, contribution statements, and year-end giving. A highlight of the book is Amerson's explanation of the development of a narrative budget/narrative spending plan. He also writes about stewardship education at multiple levels. This book is a solid resource for financial stewardship education.

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walk of emmaus letter: Dear Church Lenny Duncan, 2019-07-02 Lenny Duncan is the unlikeliest of pastors. Formerly incarcerated, he is now a black preacher in the whitest denomination in the United States: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Shifting demographics and shrinking congregations make all the headlines, but Duncan sees something else at work—drawing a direct line between the church's lack of diversity and the church's lack of vitality. The problems the ELCA faces are theological, not sociological. But so are the answers. Part manifesto, part confession, and all love letter, *Dear Church* offers a bold new vision for the future of Duncan's denomination and the broader mainline Christian community of faith. *Dear Church* rejects the narrative of church decline and calls everyone—leaders and laity alike—to the front lines of the church's renewal through racial equality and justice. It is time for the church to rise up, dust itself off, and take on forces of this world that act against God: whiteness, misogyny, nationalism, homophobia, and economic injustice. Duncan gives a blueprint for the way forward and urges us to follow in the revolutionary path of Jesus. *Dear Church* also features a discussion guide at the back—perfect for church groups, book clubs, and other group discussion.

walk of emmaus letter: Jesus and the Old Testament Roots of the Priesthood John Bergsma, 2021-01-29 Is there anything in the New Testament about the need for priests in the Church? Many Protestants would argue no. And if you point out that there is a priesthood in the Old Testament, they are likely to say it was a feature of the Old Covenant that was undone by Christ. How should a Catholic respond? In *Jesus and the Old Testament Roots of the Priesthood*, biblical scholar John Bergsma convinces readers that Jesus did, in fact, intend for a ministerial priesthood to be a key feature of the New Covenant. Bergsma shows how the priesthood is a major thread holding together the biblical story line—beginning with Adam's loss of the gift of priesthood in the Fall and the long process of restoring his descendants to a priestly status over the centuries, culminating with Christ. With chapter summaries and discussion questions included, *Jesus and the Old Testament Roots of the Priesthood* can readily be adapted into a four-part study for personal or small group use.

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